

# DEER PARK, OHIO

Past

to

Present



COMPILED BY  
ANN POOLE  
AND

75<sup>th</sup> HISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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PAST TO PRESENT

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## FOREWORD

A COMBINATION OF ENERGIES AND IDEAS HAVE GONE INTO THIS, THE WEAVING OF DEER PARK'S PAST WITH ITS PRESENT, AND IN DOING SO, WE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO HIGHLIGHT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCES, ALONG WITH GROWTH IN THIS COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE.

EARLY ON, IT BECAME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OUR TASK WITHIN THE LIMITED TIME (THREE SHORT MONTHS), SPACE AND FUNDS AVAILABLE, WE COULD ONLY TOUCH LIGHTLY UPON THE AFOREMENTIONED AREAS, AND FOR THIS WE APOLOGIZE.

MANY RESIDENTS, IN HELPING US RE-CREATE DEER PARK'S HISTORY, HAVE GIVEN GENEROUSLY OF THEIR TIME - SHARING VALUABLE AND PRICELESS PICTURES, SCRAPBOOKS AND SOME OF THEIR LASTING MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE-BY. TO THEM WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL - WITH OUR ONLY REGRET BEING, WE COULD NOT USE THEM ALL.

ALONG WITH THIS LIMITED EDITION, GOES THE HOPE THAT AS WE CELEBRATE SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF INCORPORATION TOGETHER, OUR COMMITTEE, ALONG WITH THE OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE DEER PARK 75TH CELEBRATION, HAVE HELPED IN CREATING A LASTING IMPRESSION OF - AND HEIGHTENED YOUR SENSE OF PRIDE IN - DEER PARK!

BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE,

*Ann M. Poole*  
HISTORY COMMITTEE - DEER PARK 75TH  
ROBERT POOLE, CHAIRMAN  
HELEN CAMP  
MICHAEL HAGY  
ANN POOLE  
LOUIS VOELKER  
CHRISTIAN WOELFLE

DEER PARK, OHIO - PAST TO PRESENT

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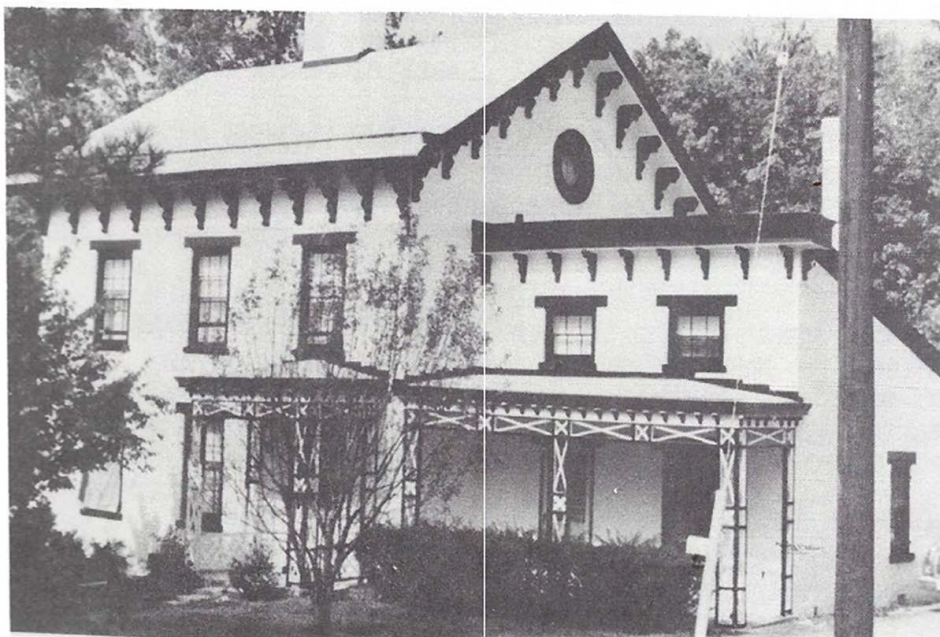
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THE DANIEL SCHENCK HOUSE

Land purchased 1798 - House built 1806.  
Oldest house in City, presently owned/  
occupied by the Walter Ward Family.

## CHAPTER I

### EARLY PIONEERS

PICTURE IF YOU CAN, Indians roaming the wilderness in search of deer, wolves, bear and buffalo in a desperate attempt at survival. And, if you are able to picture this, then you will have gained some insight into how, along with those Indians, the first brave settlers must have felt as they came by covered wagon, pack horse, and horseback to this area of Southwestern Ohio. Building their log cabins, they settled in that wilderness ... a wilderness that, after more than one hundred ninety years of suffering, hard work and determination by so many, developed into an area we proudly refer to today as ... DEER PARK !

To our knowledge, the first pioneers to this area were Samuel and Rachel Dument Pierson and their son, James. They came to Section 13 in 1795 (The "Treaty of Greenville had been signed this same year giving Ohio settlers assurance of safety over Indian intrusions") and built their crude log cabins in the settlement which would later be known as Deer Lick. In the years to follow - ninety six to be exact - Pierson and his descendents retained possession of the majority of the land in Section 13 until 1886, at which time, a large portion of it was sold to the Mutual Homestead Building Company for proposed suburban development.

ANOTHER NOTED PIONEER IN DEER PARK'S HISTORY was Dr. Daniel Schenck who, it is said first chose the settlement of Columbia to locate, later moving on to Section 13. Daniel, it would seem, literally blazed a trail by horseback through-the wilderness, from Monmouth County New Jersey, in search of land on which to plant crops, build a house and raise a family. Judge John Cleves Symmes had negotiated the original "Miami Purchase" consisting of most of the land between the two Miami Rivers, which comprised most of Hamilton County. (Judge Symmes had paid a reported 25¢ an acre for this land from the government). Daniel Schenck, after seeing this fertile land, purchased an estimated 300 acres from Symmes for 50¢ an acre in 1798.



OLD I.R. & T. CAR BARN & CREW  
Blue Ash Pike & Hegner Avenue between  
1901-22. (building still stands) Deer  
Park resident Harold Ruwe's grandfather,  
Barney Heileman is 2nd from left.

After his arrival, Daniel first built a log house which reportedly stood in the present vicinity of Lake and Linden Avenues. Then, in the period of time between 1805-06, he began construction of the first original dwelling to be built in Deer Lick. He constructed a brick structure with a slate covering. This site was in the area now known as Lake and Schenck Avenues.

At first, the house consisted of only one room, with sleeping space made available in an overhead loft. Banister markings were found on the inner wall of the original room during remodeling by the present owners. Today, this room may be viewed on the east end of the existing structure. Over the years, additional rooms were added when possible. Brick, baked on the property from the soil, provided the interior eighteen inch thick walls. Window glass was hand-rolled at that time, with one remaining at present having a visible date of "1871". Although the present entrance is from Schenck Avenue, it is believed by some to have originated from the Lake Avenue side. It is also reported that the front yard, in those days, spread all the way to the present Dillonvale Shopping Center on Galbraith Road.

Documents show that Daniel's son, John, died of cholera aboard a steamer bound from New Orleans in 1873, leaving an invalid wife and eleven children. The youngest, Olive Matson Schenck, was only a few months old at the time - Matson Avenue bears her name, as does Schenck Avenue the name of her grandfather, Daniel Schenck.

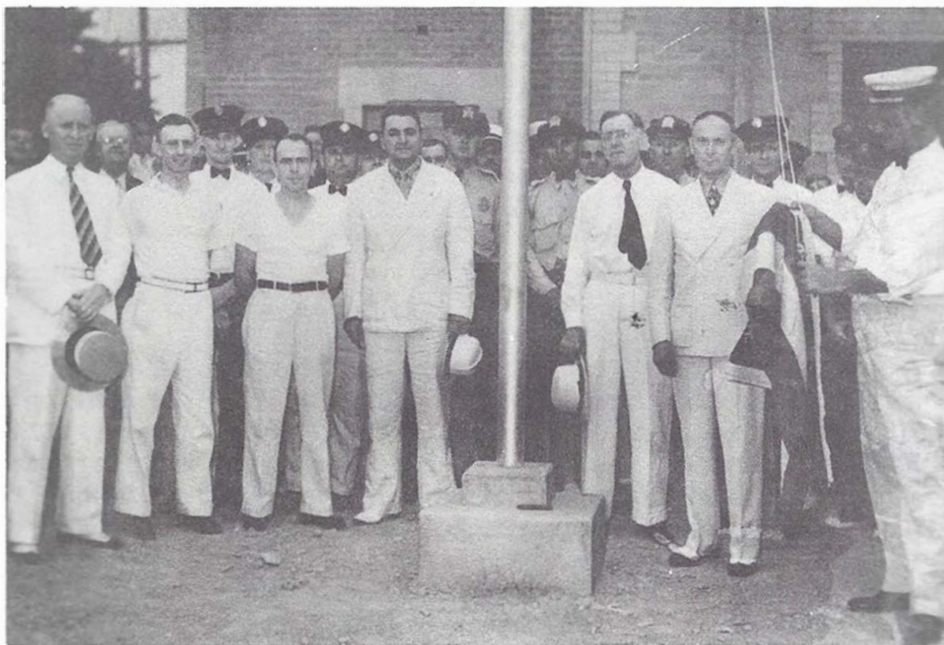
The farmhouse was occupied by the Grillo and Minick families prior to 1927 when it was purchased by the Ward Family. Today, it is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ward. Its original condition has been preserved when possible.

CHAMBERLAIN PARK IS A DAILY REMINDER of another early settler - John W. Chamberlain who became Deer Park's second mayor in 1916. It was from him that the 9½ acres of farmland was purchased in 1940 for construction of a playground. The playground was re-named Chamberlain Park in his honor in 1952. John and Sallie Chamberlain built their two-story frame house on Plainfield Pike around 1863.



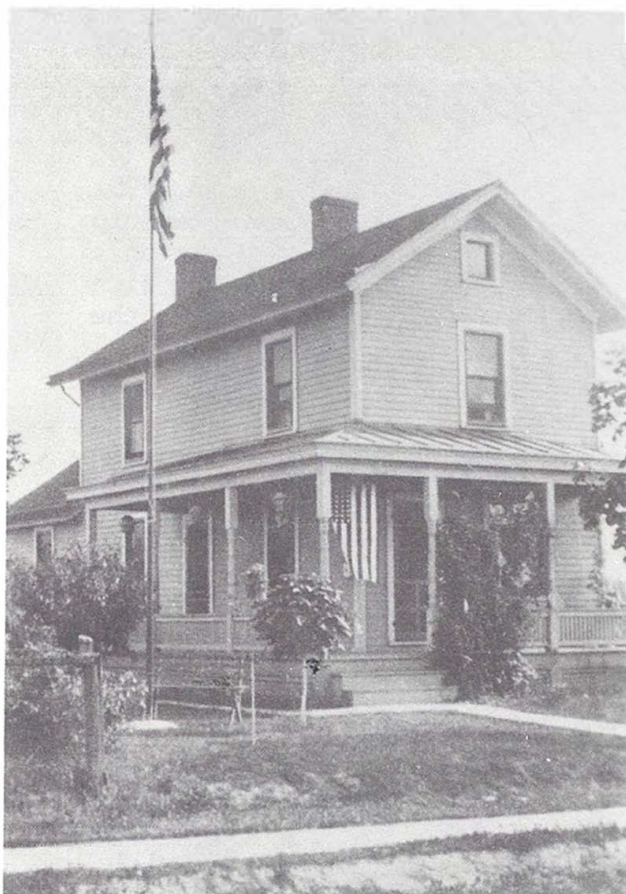
The house, although remodeled by the present owners (Mr. and Mrs. Christian Woelfle), still stands at the corner of St. John's Avenue and Plainfield Road. It was in this house, that the first Amity Mother's Club was organized.

IN OUR LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPACE we can only touch on a few of the early settlers who were responsible for Deer Park's history, but to all of them we owe our heartfelt appreciation.



#### MUNICIPAL BUILDING DEDICATION - 1936

Front row (l-r) Asst. Prosecutor Outcalt, A. Buck, P. Sprague, J. Gusweiler, Mayor Hensing, Sheriff Lutz, Marshall W. Schneider, Back row (l-r) C. Ames, Harmeyer, E. Boll, P. Understein, B. Nunn, unknown, K. Poole, W. Krueger, L. Poole, J. Keegan, M. Hebbeler and G. Gassert. (Credit-Miriam Kinney)



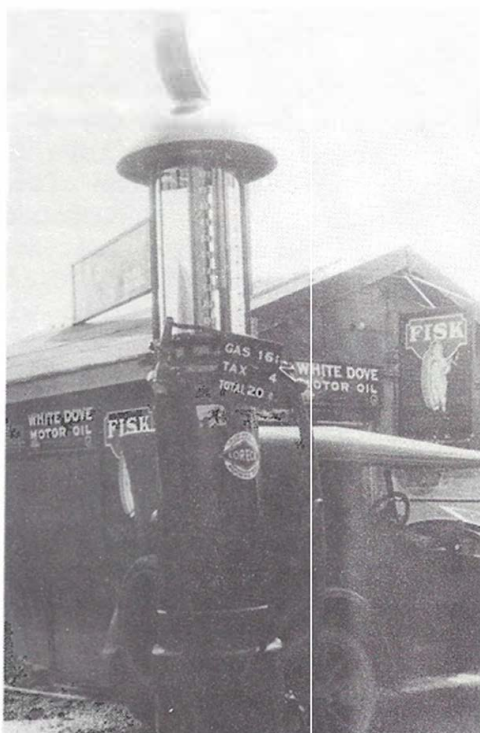
### THE HOLLATZ HOME

July 4, 1909

Originally the home  
of Louis C. & Mary E.  
Hollatz on Matson  
Avenue. Childhood  
home of Louell Hollatz  
Poole & John Hollatz, Sr.  
Presently owned/occupied  
by Mrs. John Hollatz.  
(Credit-Louell Poole)

### GAS PUMP - 1926

Mel Ruwe's Filling Station,  
Deer Park Avenue at Plain-  
field Pike. TAKE A GOOD  
LOOK AT THE GAS PRICES!  
(Credit-Harold Ruwe)



## CHAPTER II

### PAST AND PRESENT HISTORY

THE ACTUAL HISTORY OF DEER PARK BEGAN in 1793 with the settlement of Columbia, a community located where the Little Miami and Ohio Rivers came together.

Deer Lick, the original name chosen for that area in 1795, occupied the east end of Section 13, Sycamore Township (part of which is presently Deer Park and Silverton). Pioneers, as well as Indians, found this area to be a rich hunting ground for game, especially deer, attracted to the nearby salt rock spring.

In 1886, land was acquired from Samuel Pierson's heirs by the Mutual Homestead Building Company and it was at that time that the town of Deer Park was laid out. Records indicate that the official plat was recorded under the name "Deer Park" on October 1, 1886 with a total of fifty lots of twenty-five foot frontage included. The subdivisions of Beechwood, Myers, Clifton Place, Schulte #1, Humbracht and Devon Place, along with Sibley in 1887 and Schulte #2 in 1888, were all part of the original plat.

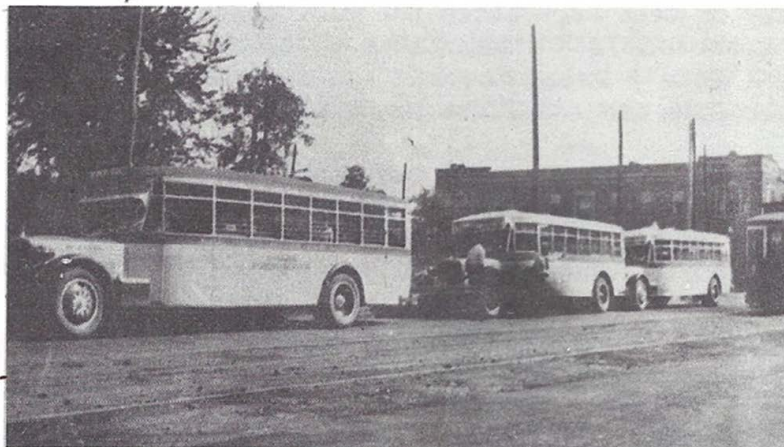
With a recorded population of 327 residents, a petition was signed by thirty-three of them on March 4, 1912, and filed with the Sycamore Township Trustees requesting permission be granted to incorporate Deer Park. Signers included: James J. O'Leary, Bernard Bene, Henry C. Buck, Fred Grillo, Louis C. Hollatz, Bernard McCaffrey, Anthony Schneider, Gustav Heinchen, F. H. Tietmeyer, J. W. Race, John B. Heileman, J. L. Stone, W. B. Hensel, Charles Mittendorf, W. H. Dwire, A. Hertlein, James Crotty, F. A. Weldon, Bernard H. Bick, John J. Ludenschmidt, Edward Hartman, William Bene, J. O. Sabin, W. O. Seis, William H. Schenck, Bernard S. Kramer, Frank A. Heiser, Henry B. Schmidt, Fred Tietmeyer, jr., L. J. VanLandingham, Joseph A. Trischler, Patrick J. Sullivan and Thomas Sweeney.

The Deer Park Welfare Corporation, a group of concerned citizens wishing to express their support of the petition, advanced the sum of \$100 to help defray special election



### OLD I.R. & T. INTERURBAN CAR BARN

Built 1901 - Abandoned 1922. Location Blue Ash Pike & Hegner Avenue. Formerly Crumbly, Jones & Crumbly (and Deer Park Oil Station), and at present Stewart Industries. (Credit-Stewart Ind.)



### DELUXE PUBLIC SERVICE TO CINCINNATI

Provided in 1921 for Deer Park commuters. The K. H. & M. bus line was owned and operated by resident Quentin Staley's brother, Henry. The buses are seen at Kennedy Avenue & Montgomery Road. A Cincinnati Traction Co. trolley can also be seen. (Credit-Quentin Staley)



expenses. Certified results record 58 votes for and 28 votes against incorporation on May 16, 1912. It was at that time that the oldest resident James J. O'Leary, was elected as the first mayor of the Village of Deer Park, Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio. Other elected officials and their annual salaries included Fred Tietmeyer, Marshall (\$25), John W. Chamberlain, Fred Grillo, Frank Heizer, Bernard McCaffery, Bernard Kramer and Anthony Schneider, Councilmen (\$2 for each regular meeting attended) and Frank Huber, Clerk (\$100). The street commissioner received 25¢ an hour for actual work done, plus 60¢ per hour for a rented team of horses.

In the years between 1930-51 the following subdivisions/land was annexed to the Village of Deer Park:

1930	Brockell Park	1947	MacNicholas Avenue
1943	St. John's Terrace	1951	Hemphill Gardens
1945	High School land	1951	Holscher & Rape
1945-46	Concord Park	1951	Dillonvale submitted but withdrew petition.

On January 1, 1952, the Village of Deer Park became the City of Deer Park after the U.S. Census of 1950 had revealed a count of 7247 inhabitants. It was then that Mayor Jacob E. ("Pete") Palmer became the last Mayor of the Village of Deer Park and the first Mayor of the City of Deer Park.

Council adopted an ordinance on August 16, 1953, petitioning Hamilton County Commissioners to create Deer Park Township with no boundary line changes. Approval was granted in January, 1954.

Over the course of history many people have found Deer Park the right town to make a better future for themselves and for their families - some having as many as three and four generations remaining or returning.

Although primarily residential (with remodeling only taking place since the early 50's), some 200 small businesses are located, predominately, along Blue Ash, Plainfield and Galbraith Roads.



## CHAPTER III

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IT WAS IN THE YEAR 1825 THAT THE OHIO LEGISLATURE granted authority to establish school districts. Shortly thereafter, Daniel Schenck met with a small group of his neighbors to discuss the necessity of a school. Mr. Schenck then offered to donate a lot, later surveyed to be 87/100 of an acre, on which the first school could be erected. As founder, Daniel Schenck was given the honor of choosing a name for the school - he called it "Amity", which means friendship. At that time, Deer Park was included in School District No. 9.

The first building to house Amity School was a log structure, sixteen feet in length constructed on Plainfield Pike at a cost of \$450 in 1826. This building was then replaced with a one-room brick structure in 1839 on the same site at a cost of \$750. It was during completion of this building that Daniel Schenck died.

In 1861, the School Board purchased two acres from John Schenck, joining the 87/100 of an acre previously donated, and it was then that the third one-room schoolhouse was built. Another room was added in 1874 and a large bell (a gift of Board Member William Langhorst) was installed in the belfry.

The third one-room school house was condemned, due to faulty roof construction, around 1907, and at that time the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. John Little.

The present Amity School on Galbraith Road (then Amity Road) was erected in 1906 on a three-acre tract of land in the middle of Daniel Schenck's farm. The building consisted of four rooms. The bell was then transferred to this location. Four additional rooms were added in 1919.

During the school's Centennial Jubilee Celebration in 1926, the east wing was dedicated. The bell was then removed from the belfry not to be replaced until seventeen years later, returned at that time as an air raid warning. The Centennial program noted an enrollment of 300 pupils and an average eighth grade class of twenty.

The school was recognized citywide for baseball competitions and also for honors in both oratorical and spelling contests.

The west wing (high school), was added to the Amity building in 1936, at which time grades 9 through 12 were added. Prior to this time high school students had attended surrounding high schools. This year also saw the first edition of the school newspaper, THE TOM-TOM, which is still published today.

The first class of 21 students to receive diplomas from Deer Park High School occurred in 1938, as did publication of the first yearbook, the ANTLERS.

The last addition to Amity School (called by some the Wagner Addition), took place in 1947 with the addition of six rooms to the rear of the west wing. This also marked the beginning of the first traditional "PARKERS" school variety show.

In 1945, a bond issue had been approved for \$400,000 for construction of a new high school building to be located on Plainfield Road, at that time it was to have included a Public Library Branch. After rejection of a federal grant application, voters approved a second bond issue of \$597,000 in 1950, which would be used for construction of a gymnasium which would also house home economics, commercial, industrial arts and physical education departments, as well as, dressing rooms. This wing was completed in 1952. Grades 4, 5 and 6 had occupied this space until the gymnasium's completion. The athletic field was also constructed at that time. Although actual work began on this building in 1949, it was not completed until 1952 with the first graduating class receiving their diplomas in 1953.

The necessary funding to erect two additional elementary schools in an effort to meet the increasing student enrollment, the Albert C. Holmes School on Dorina Lane (Dillonvale) and the Dorothy M. Howard School on Matson Avenue, was made possible by the passage of a \$750,000 bond issue in 1956. Dedication ceremonies were held in April, 1958 for the Holmes School and in September of that same year for the Howard School.

A junior high wing was added to the existing high school in 1961, and at that time the seventh grade was moved to that building from the Amity School.

A new wing was then added to the Holmes School in 1968, with additional classrooms for the art and music departments made available. A courtyard, created with this expansion, was dedicated in honor of this building's first principal, Florence Hatton.

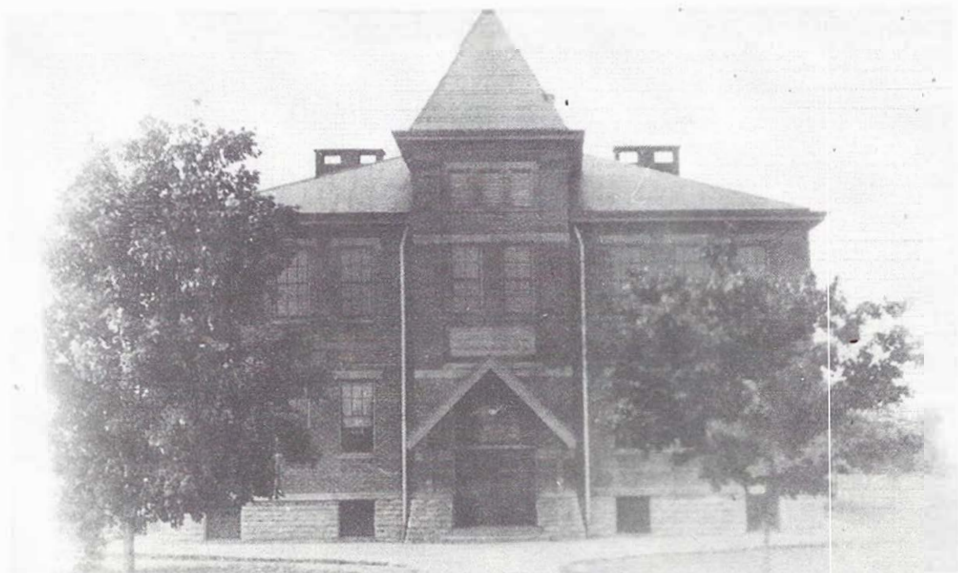
The final stage of this building program, which had been approved by voters in 1966, was to be a nine-room addition to the Holmes School, remodeling and improvements to the Amity School and a 14 room addition, remodeling and improvements to the high school.

The Carl E. Crawford Auditorium was added to the south side of the high school in 1968. Included in this wing were dressing rooms, property rooms, a speech classroom, vocal and instrumental music departments. Carl E. Crawford had dedicated twenty-eight years as Superintendent of Deer Park Schools. The modern auditorium with a seating capacity of 948, was dedicated March 9, 1968.

In 1972, with the passage of a Vocational bond issue, the Deer Park Community School System became a part of the Great Oaks Vocational School District. Approximately eighty-five career choices were made available at that time for students of the junior and senior levels.

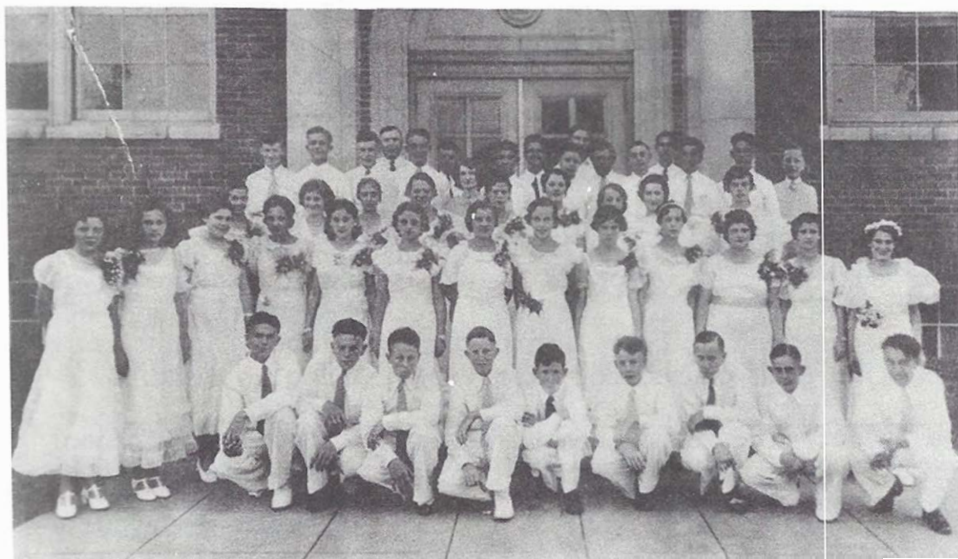
This same year was destined to become a milestone in the school's history - the demolition of the one-room "little red schoolhouse" erected in 1871. Efforts to preserve it for prosperity were futile. Former students and other residents could only stand quietly and watch as the wrecking ball caused the historic building to crumble.

By 1974, Amity School was being termed the "middle school", since grades kindergarten through third grade had been phased out in this building.



AMITY ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Original four rooms constructed - 1906. East wing added - 1926. West wing (high school) added in 1936. (Credit-Miriam Kinney)



EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION - DEER PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

1934

Deer Park resident Betty (Kaiser) Woelfle appears in second row - eighth from left. (Credit-Betty Woelfle)

On May 2, 1976, school officials, state and local dignitaries, former students and others attended an impressive ceremony marking the school's SESQUICENTENNIAL .

It was then, as 217 proud seniors received diplomas, a school record was set with this, the largest graduating class in Deer Park's history. This was the year of our nation's BICENTENNIAL - 1976!

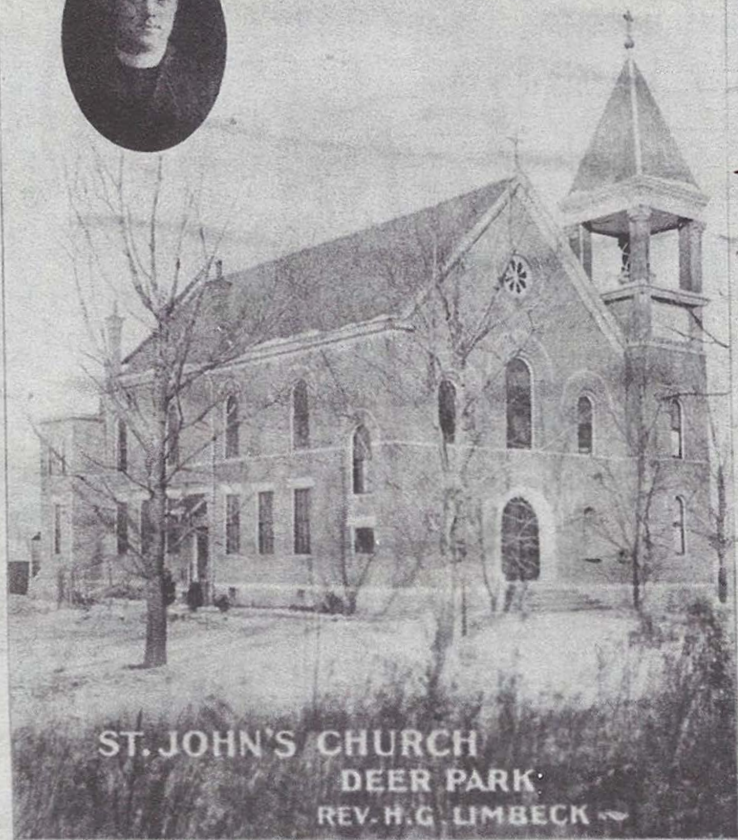
A multi-purpose center and additional classrooms were to be constructed at Howard School this same year.

Recent enrollment figures (1986) for the Deer Park School System shows:

High School (including Scarlet Oaks)	728
Amity School	285
Howard School	235
Holmes School	245
Total Enrollment:	<u>1493</u>







ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
DEER PARK  
REV. H.G. LIMBECK

1915		JANUARY						1915	
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.
							1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			

ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Built 1891 - Razed 1939. First church established  
in Deer Park. Plainfield Pike at Deer Park Avenue.

## CHAPTER IV

### CHURCHES

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH AND SCHOOL: The first church established in Deer Park, Saint John the Evangelist, was erected in 1891. It took care of the religious needs of seventy-five Catholic families living in and around Deer Park. In 1905, the first school was started with an enrollment of fifty students with one teacher for all eight grades. Enrollment continued to increase and in 1916, the "hall" was built. It held two classrooms and a small auditorium. In 1928, a new school was built and by 1939 enrollment had climbed to 485 students. That same year (1939) the original church and school buildings were razed and a temporary chapel was built to serve the parish needs. A new, more permanent church was constructed, with dedication taking place in 1967. During this same time, the old "hall" was torn down.

Due to the rapid residential expansion which took place in the fifties and sixties in the area covered by St. John's, three additional Catholic churches were built in this vicinity. Presently, St. John's parish consists of 1177 family units and the school has an enrollment of 200 children.

Lay organizations established in the church include the Altar Society (1893), the Immaculate Conception Society, the Holy Name Society, St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Parent-Teachers Association and the Young Men's Club. In 1940, it became evident that another organization was needed to foster and promote the athletic and recreational activities of the students. It was then that St. John's Dads' Club was formed. The first priest of the church was Father Aloysius Kohmescher (1892-94). Father Lawrence J. Mick is the present priest, assisted by Father Lawrence T. Tensi and Father Carl Lizza.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH was established in the mid-twenties after approximately twenty persons met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Naylor on O'Leary Avenue. Outgrowing these quarters, the group rented a room in the original Deer Park Building & Loan Company.

Continuing to grow, the congregation then made the decision to purchase the property at the corner of Blue Ash Road and Hegner Avenue. Records document that the first frame church was built there around 1927.

In 1958, Pastor H. D. Meyers initiated a drive and drew up plans for the present brick structure situated on the same lot. Dedication ceremonies were held in August, 1959. The present pastor of the church is Reverend Eugene Spiekerman.

DEER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH, with its motto "Where Your Heart Can Feel the Difference", started from humble beginnings when twelve people met in the basement of brother Russell Kuntzman's Schenck Avenue home on March 14, 1954. In the months to follow, the Independent Baptist Church (as it was originally called) held services at the V.F.W hall in Rossmoyne and at Amity School. (Reverend H. O. Pinson was pastor at that time).

Dedication ceremonies for the first church were held on Easter Sunday, 1957, with completion of the present auditorium taking place in 1962. Reverend Pinson resigned, due to ill health, in 1966 and it was at that time that the present pastor, Dr. Thomas Trammel, was called upon to minister to the congregation. Deer Park Baptist Church became the official name in 1967.

Today, the modern facilities located at 4220 East Galbraith Road, are valued at over one million dollars, with the congregation having grown to well over 1200 members. An average of 550 attend Sunday School weekly. Offering extensive bus ministry, a building program housing the Heritage Baptist School, Deer Park Kiddie Academy, Sav-A-Baby and Senior Saints programs, the church also provides world-wide evangelism and radio youth ministries programs.

## CHAPTER V

### FIRE DEPARTMENT AND LIFE SQUAD

THE DEER PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED IN 1893. With no official records, the identity of the members remains unknown, as does the exact location of the fire house. There seems to be a debate among oldtimers - some claim it was at the corner of Blue Ash Pike and Glenway Avenue while others say it could have been at the corner of Blue Ash Pike and Hegner Avenue. The equipment at that time seemed to consist of two pumps pulled to the fire scene by men, or possibly by an available wagon. It is assumed that the building was razed and the department disbanded around 1910.

In 1917, due to expansion and growth, the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department was organized by Village officials. Walter Schneider was appointed as the first official chief of the department in 1921, having joined that same year.

The first documented purchase of fire equipment took place on March 28, 1921, at which time two chemical fire extinguishers were purchased from C. H. Sutphen & Son of Columbus, Ohio. One extinguisher was stored in the basement of the Amity School on Amity Road while the other was placed in the car barns of the I.R. & T. Company on Blue Ash Pike. Each location was equipped with a steel train wheel rim and a hammer. Firefighters responded to the sound of the hammer striking the rim.

After a successful festival in 1922, a Model "T" Ford Fire Engine was purchased to augment the chemical extinguishers.

On October 8, 1923 the department moved into the new fire house at Matson and Beech Avenues. A siren was purchased and mounted in the fire house steeple. It was shortly thereafter that a contract was signed with the telephone company, whereby the operator on duty, upon receiving a request for the department, would operate an electrical button, starting the siren.





DEER PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
1893

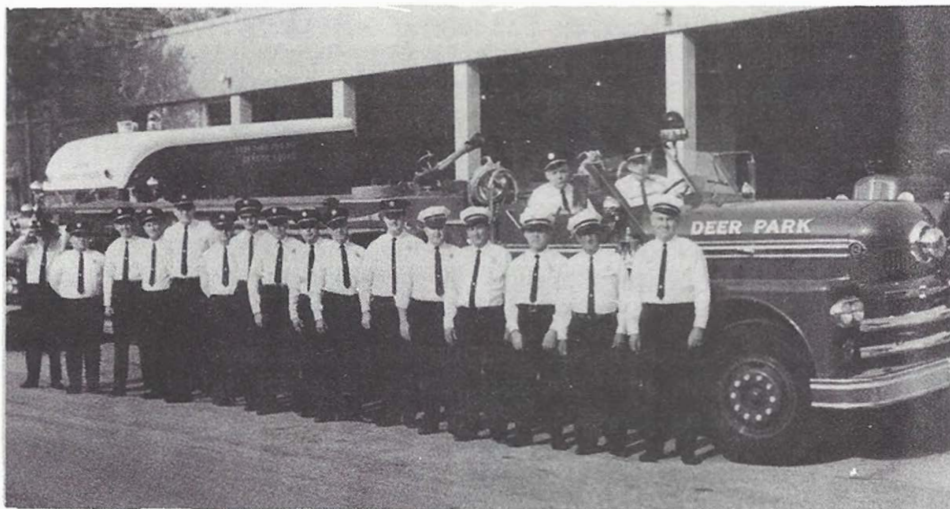
Reportedly the first unofficial community fire house. Location debated to be either Blue Ash Pike & Glenway Avenue or Blue Ash Pike & Hegner Avenue.



DEER PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

on 1928 Arens Fox-H. Miller, P. Understein, Harmeyer, unknown, R. Nunn, L. Lehnert, C. Gerdes, J. Keegan, H. Pietmeyer, R. O'Donald. On ground-J. Hollatz. On model T.-W. Krueger, G. Gassert, J. Miller, Chief Schneider, M. Hebbeler, E. Boll, L. Poole, K. Poole, D. Hemmerle. On ground in front of hand-drawn chemical cart-J. Burns, L. Hollatz. (Credit-Miriam Kinney)





### DEER PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1969

Standing (l-r) W. Cornish, R. West, G. Dunford, D. Dvorak, T. Klein, D. Meiser, R. Wilson, J. Gruber, H. McConnell, R. Nadaud, D. Love, A. Webber, R. Poole, E. Parsley, K. Poole and Chief L. Voelker. Seated (l-r) C. Erp, E. Hirsch.



### 1987 DVPD MEMBERS

Standing (l-r) Capt. T. Camp, Chief M. Hagy, Asst. Chief J. Gruber, B. Murray, Capt. J. Schlie, Lt. B.J. Jetter, Lt. T. Ott, B. Downey, R. Wilson, D. Lehane. Clockwise top of truck- J. Ober, E. Rauen, F. Patmann, T. Sauter, R. Himmelhaver.

On April 8, 1929, the Village Council authorized the purchase of a new Ahrens Fox Quad Fire Truck, it became the second motorized vehicle purchased by the department. This pumper was still in service, as late as 1964. Affectionately known as "Old Betsy", it is currently on permanent display in Chamberlain Park.

Contracts were signed for the new Municipal Building on March 13, 1936, and additional ground was purchased at that time at the Matson and Beech Avenue location. On October 23, 1936, the fire department was transferred into their new quarters.

In December, 1937, arrangements were made with the Cincinnati Suburban Bell Telephone Company to handle the operation of the fire signal system by remote control. At that time, the practice of blowing the siren at 12 o'clock noon on Saturdays was inaugurated in order to check its operation. In early 1987, the siren became a dual purpose Civil Defense siren and is also used to warn residents of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes.

In 1938, the fire department purchased an inhalator and shortly thereafter, all department members took Red Cross first aid training.

On July 11, 1938, Chief Walter Schneider retired from the department after approximately 17 years of dedicated volunteer service as Deer Park's first Fire Chief.

Assistant Chief John Hollatz became the second Fire Chief of the Village of Deer Park in July of 1938, having been elected by a majority vote of the department members.

In 1940, a used Nash ambulance was purchased and dedication of this ambulance and equipment took place on April 27, 1940. During the first year of service, 137 calls were made and 11 lives definitely saved. This Nash ambulance marked the beginning of the first Volunteer Life Squad in the entire area, responding as far east as Anderson Township and north to Kings Mills, Ohio.

In 1944, a new E & J resuscitator was purchased, to be used in conjunction with the inhalator.

In February, 1945, Village Council decided that department members should receive compensation for fire call response, and an ordinance was passed, whereby each responding member was paid the sum of \$1 per fire call, payable each December. Volunteer Life Squad members were not paid for runs until this year (1987), when Council approved a rate of \$6 per squad run. Firefighters receive a current rate of \$10 per fire run.

In 1947, a new Cadillac ambulance was purchased from the Hess & Eisenhardt Company in Rossmoyne, Ohio.

Village Council authorized the hiring of a third dispatcher in February, 1949, and this action then gave Deer Park twenty-four-hour-a-day coverage on fire and police telephones.

In 1950, a used Cadillac Emergency (Rescue) Squad was purchased and completely furnished with emergency equipment and placed into service. Deer Park then became the first Volunteer Fire Department in Southwestern Ohio to be so equipped.

In 1951, the residents supported a Fire Department bond issue to be used for a new fire truck. The International Pumper was delivered in a blinding snow storm on November 16, 1951. Department equipment at that time consisted of two pumpers, one emergency squad car and one life squad ambulance.

The Board of Fire Underwriters of Ohio placed the City of Deer Park in "Class 6" fire rating on September 26, 1953, thereby lowering fire insurance rates for residents.

A second new Cadillac ambulance was purchased in July, 1955, complete with two-way radio and late in August a new Ford Rescue Truck was purchased.

City Council passed an ordinance in February, 1957, for a new fire alarm system to augment the current system being used. It consisted of a series of bells in the homes of

each volunteer fireman and police officer. Also in February, a complete new radio installation was made with a base station in the police office and five mobile units. Two police cruisers received units, as did two fire department vehicles and the safety-service director's car.

In November, 1958, the citizens of Deer Park approved a fire house and equipment bond issue. With the new fire house nearing completion in 1959, Mayor Renner proclaimed the week of October 11-17 as Firemen Appreciation Week in recognition of 66 years of volunteer fire service and 19 years of life squad work.

The new Seagraves fire engine was scheduled for arrival on October 16th, in order to be on display for the building's dedication, but it was wrecked in transit. The new fire house was dedicated and all equipment and supplies moved on October 18, 1959. The newly repaired fire engine arrived on February 3, 1960.

In 1962, with proceeds realized from the annual firemen's festival, a new Gertstenslager rescue truck was purchased and delivered in the spring of 1962. This rescue truck responded to all serious auto accidents, as well as all fire calls. It was at that time that the old Ford rescue truck was refurbished into a second ambulance.

A custom built Cadillac ambulance, built by the Hess and Eisenhardt Company, was purchased in 1964. The \$15,000 cost was covered by proceeds of the annual Firemen's Festival.

On June 1, 1964, Fire Chief John Hollatz resigned from the department after nearly 40 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Deer Park. A testimonial dinner was then held in his honor.

Then came the first competitive Civil Service examination and Captain Louis Voelker was appointed as Deer Park's third Fire Chief on January 1, 1965.

On August 18, 1965, the City of Deer Park placed a new radio alerting system into operation for the firemen. The

system consisted of an encorder and twenty-five individual receivers which the firemen kept in their homes. The police department personnel touched a button transferring a high pitched tone through the radio transmitter. The tone and accompanying message alerted the firemen to the nature of the emergency.

In March, 1971, a new Mack Pumper was delivered, equipped with a 1000 gallon per minute pump and a 1000 gallon booster tank. The \$50,000 cost was funded by a bond issue.

Delivery of a new Cadillac ambulance, manufactured by Miller Meter, was delivered in April, 1973. The \$17,000 expense was again funded by the annual Firemen's Festival.

On July 12, 1973, Council honored Assistant Chief Kenneth Poole for "Fifty years of honorable service in the fire department". Joining the department in 1923, he retired February 2, 1975, having served as Assistant Chief for twenty-five years. This record of years of service will probably never be surpassed.

In July, 1978, a new Ford life squad was purchased. The City of Deer Park had sold the 1964 Cadillac ambulance to River Downs Race Track.

In 1981, due to insufficient manpower, a Mutual Aid Response Pact was entered into by the City of Deer Park and the City of Silverton. This pact is still in existence today, providing firefighting personnel for both cities between the hours of 6 o'clock a.m. and 6 o'clock p.m. seven days a week. The pact has not eliminated the manpower shortage, but it has helped to stabilize it.

In the late fall of 1983, a new Seagraves pumper was ordered. In February, 1984, the Seagraves pumper was displayed at the Fire Department Instructor's Conference held at the Cincinnati Convention Center. The 1250 GPM Seagraves was delivered to the City following the conference. The \$148,000 expense was funded by a bond issue.

In February, 1984, the fire department purchased a 1974 100-foot Seagraves aerial truck. Formerly "Ladder 48"



assigned to the Bronx, New York City Fire Department. It ran with the busiest engine company in New York - "Engine 82" - which was also the busiest engine company in the world.

Deer Park firemen drove the ladder truck from New York to Deer Park during a severe snowstorm. The firemen, in conjunction with the City, solicited donations from private business corporations to rehab the truck. They, along with several private businesses, donated nearly eight months of time and labor to restore this truck. The total cost to place the aerial truck into service was approximately \$35,000. The apparatus, if purchased new and fully equipped, would cost an estimated \$350,000.

In February, 1984, Chief Louis Voelker announced his intentions to retire, effective April 1, 1984.

In March, a civil service examination was conducted for the position of fire chief. The Civil Service Commission then announced that Captain Michael Hagy had received the highest score on the exam and would be appointed Deer Park's fourth fire chief, effective April 1, 1984.

Chief Voelker retired after 42 years of fire service, 19 of which he was fire chief. Chief Voelker devoted many hours toward the advancement of fire service in Hamilton County. His distinguished career consisted of numerous outstanding achievements, including the very first recipient of the "FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR" award for the life-saving rescue of a trapped woman in her burning apartment on February 25, 1979. He is one of the original founders of the Eastern District Fire Chief's Association and the first volunteer chief to serve as president of the Hamilton County Fire Chief's Association. A retirement dinner was held in his honor.

On April 1, 1984, Captain Michael Hagy was sworn-in by Mayor Francis Healy as the fourth fire chief in Deer Park's history.

On October 26, 1984, the Insurance Services of Ohio (ISO) changed the fire rating to "Class 4", resulting in a decrease in fire insurance rates for many insured commercial properties within the City.

Remodeling of the fire house started in the fall of 1984, and at that time two storage rooms were converted into new fire department offices, a ladies restroom was installed along with the men's restroom receiving remodeling. The old fire department office was converted for use by the mayor and city auditor.

In 1985, upon completion of the new service department building, the old building was remodeled to become a storage and equipment maintenance area for the fire department. The bond issue for 1983 funded this remodeling.

In the fall of 1985, department members built a trailer that carries an extra supply of foam and a 200 GPM portable pump, used in emptying flooded basements.

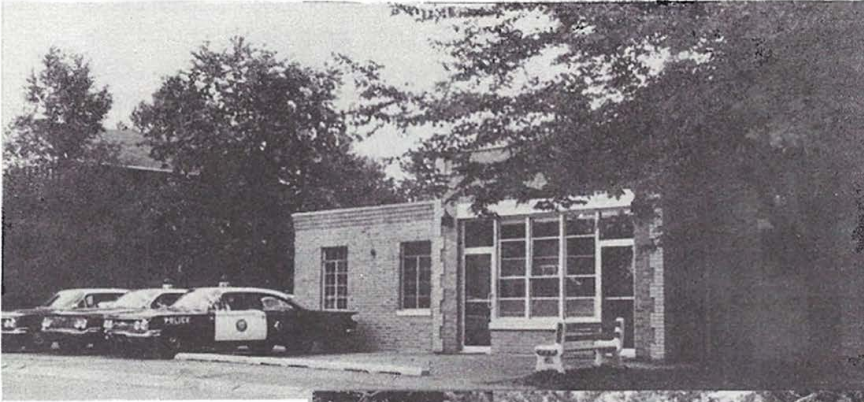
In March, 1986, a new Ford life squad was purchased. The purchase was financed in part by the annual resident ticket drive and the trade-in value of the 1979 Ford squad. The city funded the remaining expense of \$26,000.

In June of 1986, a new Kohler generator was installed in the fire house, which will provide electrical power to the city building in the event of a natural disaster. This ensures continued fire and police services.

In November, 1986, the fire department installed a computer system providing quick access to various records and information used in firefighting.



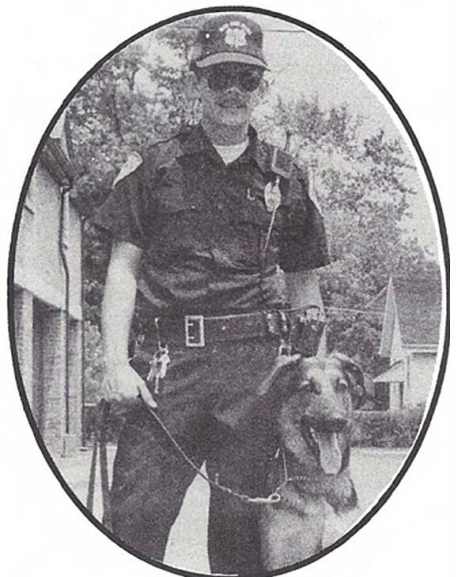
DEER PARK POLICE CRUISERS  
THE OLD....



.....AND THE NEW.



THE NEWEST RECRUIT!...  
"DUKE" - CANINE UNIT  
FORMED IN 1987.  
(PTL. JOSEPH SCHLIE)



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOLLOWING DEER PARK'S INCORPORATION AS A VILLAGE in 1912, Fred Tietmeyer was named the first "Marshall" with an annual salary of \$100. The neighboring community of Silverton was paid 60¢ per day, per prisoner, plus a \$2 guard's fee, since Deer Park had no jail facilities.

Records show that it was not until 1932 that the department offered twenty-four hour police protection to its citizens with a complement of one marshall, one deputy marshall and one part-time traffic officer.

State statute in 1942 brought about the change of title from Marshall to Chief of Police. Richard Selz was chief at that time.

Paid vacations were authorized by Council in 1948, and uniforms were furnished the following year. A new headquarters room was occupied and two-way police communication was made available through the Hamilton County Communication Center.

Patrolman Nick Nimersheim was named "acting chief" upon the resignation of Police Chief Selz in 1950. Nimersheim was later sworn-in as Chief.

Civilian dispatchers were discontinued in 1957, and three uniformed patrolman were hired in their place. The department then included a chief, lieutenant and six patrolmen. Use of the Hamilton County Communication Center was discontinued and our own dispatching system set up and put into operation.

The department's present quarters were occupied in 1960, and the "police cadet" program initiated in 1973.

Sergeant John Niehaus was appointed "acting chief" after the resignation of Police Chief Nick Nimersheim in 1974, and later was sworn-in as chief.

The City was saddened by the death of retired Chief Nick Nimersheim in October, 1980. "Nick", affectionately called by many, had composed the HISTORY OF DEER PARK in conjunction with the Deer Park Bicentennial Commission.

Police Chief John Niehaus gave notice of his forthcoming retirement in September, 1980, and after a long-awaited decision, the Civil Service Commission declared Donald J. Lally as the new Police Chief on February 19, 1981.

The police station received an over-all remodeling in April, 1981, and later that same year, a Police Robbery Task Force was formed.

In 1982, a police communications console, funded by donations from the fire department (\$2,000), the Sycamore-Deer Park Jaycees (\$600), several local businesses (\$500), and the remainder from general funds.

A "Neighborhood Watch" program was implemented in 1982 by Police Sergeant Michael Berens, Crime Prevention Coordinator.

The police department has had only one additional member since 1981. With the formation of a Canine Unit earlier this year, a police dog named "Duke" was donated by Patrolman Joseph Schlie.

While the role of the police department has changed some over the years, as society has, the department still clings to some of the older intentions of service to the citizens. Fulfilling the necessary commitment of protecting lives and property is still their top priority.

Incorporation into the department of an active crime prevention program, with frequent visits to local schools and organizations, is carried out in an effort to explain the department's primary concern for the community.

With the recent shift of the community to more restaurants, saloons and the popular twenty-four-hour-service in local establishments, the department is still able to provide Deer Park citizens with excellent service.

The present department includes a chief, two sergeants, six patrolmen, one full-time dispatcher and two part-time dispatchers and, oh yes, a police dog named "Duke"!



## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

OUR PRESENT DAY SERVICE DEPARTMENT EVOLVED FROM the first of many annual "Clean-Up Days" held on May 20, 1913. Whereby the Marshall was instructed to "notify inhabitants of the Village to have their rubbish in readiness", the Marshall was then instructed to hire the necessary help required.

Supervision of this department began in June, 1912, when a part-time street commissioner was appointed by the mayor and paid 25¢ per hour for actual work done, plus 60¢ for a rented team of horses.

Records prior to 1923 are not very specific as to employees, equipment or housing. However, we are told that in 1923 the service department trucks were housed in one of two bays in the newly constructed fire house at the corner of Matson and Beech Avenues.

After completion of the new Municipal Building (on the same site) the trucks were housed in a small, rear area of this building. Then in 1942, a municipal garage was authorized and built to meet the increasing need for equipment and work space.

Al Bosse became Deer Park's first Service Department Supervisor after creation of the position in 1946. The following year he resigned, and John Hollatz was appointed to fill the vacancy. Upon his resignation in 1950, Hollatz was replaced by Al Geist.

Shortly after the Village became a City in 1952, two enclosed waste collection trucks were purchased, replacing the open ones. In subsequent years, modern snow removal, leaf collection and sewer cleaning equipment and methods were added to the functions of the department.

Alfred Perrot-White was then appointed Director of Public Safety and Service, a newly-created position in 1956. He resigned later that year, at which time he was succeeded by Ralph Doering, who held this post until 1959. Mayor Leo Renner then selected J. Henry Camp to fill the position, and this he did, for the next sixteen years.

The completion of the fire house in 1959, and subsequent transfer of equipment made possible the remodeling of the municipal building, providing additional office space for the mayor, safety-service director and tax department. It was this change that enabled the City to centralize functions of the Safety-Service Director's office, such as purchasing, payroll and issuance of permits and licenses. More importantly, it made services available to the residents on a full-time basis.

Mayor Healy, upon his election in 1976, appointed Louis Illing to the director's position. He was succeeded in 1979 by the present Safety-Service Director, David A. O'Leary.

In 1975, plans had been finalized and construction began on the department's new storage facilities across from the municipal building. An additional building was erected in 1986 in order that the entire service department could re-locate together. Thus, it became possible for the fire department to occupy both floors of the former municipal garage.

At the height of operation, the department had thirteen full-time employees. However, economic factors prompted the use of seasonal, part-time help and subsequent utilization of private contractors for waste collection in 1985 reduced the staff to the present five full-time and four part-time employees.

## CHAPTER VI

### CHAMBERLAIN PARK

THE DEER PARK WELFARE ASSOCIATION (formerly the Deer Park Welfare Corporation) played a big part before and after passage of the \$15,000 bond issue which provided needed revenue for construction of a modern playground for the children of Deer Park. The official ballot returns on November 5, 1940, showed 654 for and 626 against passage. Two previous attempts in 1936 (568 for - 683 against) and in 1937 (471 for - 601 against) failed to pass a \$10,000 bond issue. With the passage of the \$15,000 bond issue, 9½ acres of a tract of farmland owned by John Chamberlain was purchased in December, 1940, for a recorded \$7,500. An additional \$375 was paid shortly thereafter in order to purchase land to be used for an entrance from Matson Avenue.

Ball diamonds were marked-off and laid-out, and a shelter house (47x20 ft.) was constructed, as was a (25x40 ft.) wading pool. This work was initiated under contract with the federally backed National Youth Administration which, at that time, utilized the talents of local unemployed youth. However, work had hardly begun when, due to a lack of youth and city funding, the national agency terminated their contract. Countless efforts were made to have them reinstate the program, but to no avail. It was at that time that the Volunteer Fire Department suggested a plan, whereby a number of volunteers would enlist willing citizens to work without compensation on one or more "work days" (probably Saturdays) to help bring this project to completion. Their suggestion was carried out and the project completed. A concrete slab was poured for the shelter house at a later date.

A second playground bond issue for \$20,000 was placed on the May, 1946, ballot in an effort to purchase additional park land from the Chamberlains, to provide lights for evening ball games, and to erect a fence and backstop at Diamond #1. Upon passage, approximately four more acres, to the west of the existing park, were purchased. Access was then made available from Plainfield Pike.



DEER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER DEDICATION

Built and donated by Sycamore-Deer Park Jaycees,  
1972. (l-r) S. Sandforth, J. Jackson, Senator  
Maloney, Mayor Kleiman, R. Kent, D. McKeown, J.  
Trauth, J. Beckett, L. Root, J. Bauer, J.H. Camp.

The Deer Park Playground was renamed "Chamberlain Park" by action of Council on September 25, 1952, thereby paying tribute to this early pioneer and second mayor of Deer Park - John W. Chamberlain. His wife, Sallie, was present during dedication ceremonies.

A new service building and restrooms were added to the park in 1956 and 1960 respectively. In 1956 a bond issue, which was defeated, would have placed a family-sized swimming pool in the park.

During Deer Park's 60th Anniversary celebration on June 11, 1972, ceremonies were held by Sycamore-Deer Park Jaycees, state and local officials and other dignitaries, along with many residents dedicating the newly constructed Community Center. Proceeds for the \$40,000 project had been realized through numerous Halloween "haunted houses" sponsored by the Jaycees. All construction work was donated by Jaycees.

Not only have we enjoyed a nice meeting hall throughout the years, a bingo hall, rental accommodations, a meeting place for Senior Citizens, sign-up center for athletics, but - the building also serves as our "Town Hall" for civic and governmental meetings.

The Jaycees contributed another gift of \$3,000 to the Park Board in 1976, requesting that it be used for development of a parking lot and basketball court immediately west of the community center.

The years since 1940 have brought many improvements and additions to the park, not only from City funding, but also through the dedicated efforts of countless individuals and organizations. Of these, were the :Playground Mother's Club, the Jaycees, Bicentennial Commission, Recreation Commission, American Legion and Volunteer Fire Department, as well as, many other organizations and businesses.

A maintenance-free aluminum flag pole was presented to the City to be erected near the War Memorial Honor Roll (a gift of local merchants) in February, 1976. Proceeds were raised from July Fourth Festivals in 1975 and in 1976.



A federal grant for \$20,000 in 1977 enabled the city to install new lighting on ball Diamond #1 and the Jaycees erected basketball courts that same year.

The "kiddie pool" (or as termed by some children - "toe wash") which had been a source of enjoyment by many neighborhood children over the years, was determined to be unsafe and beyond repair. Therefore, efforts were begun in the latter part of 1985 to fill it in. A volleyball court now occupies that area.

The second shelter house (24x36 ft.) was erected in 1985, this time on the west end of the park near the Community Center. The southern pine structure includes a concrete slab and was built at a total cost of \$9,232. This was made possible by proceeds from numerous Fourth of July Community Festivals.

A swimming pool levy and operating levy were defeated by voters on November 4, 1986. Estimated cost of the 40x75 foot proposed family-sized pool, including a kiddie pool, was in the range of \$146,000.

Chamberlain Park is administered by the Park Commission, (established by Council in 1948), five unpaid citizen volunteers, appointed by the Mayor. Present members include: Chairman John Vastine, Donna Hollatz, Mary Shafer, Harry Gilligan and Carl Fischer. One full-time park supervisor and one part-time helper are responsible for daily operations in the park.

Many "unsung heroes" who give freely of their time - the coaches, managers, concession stand workers, team sponsors and, of course, the parents of the athletes. They do a tremendous job.

Today, the park is the most visible feature of the city. It includes some thirteen acres, centrally located, providing recreational facilities for every age. Five ball diamonds, three tennis courts, soccer and football fields, playground equipment, picnic areas and shelter houses are enjoyed from early spring until late in autumn. Local civic and political organizations use it extensively, as do the schools and families alike for picnics, reunions and family gatherings - not to mention all of the festivals that have been enjoyed there!

## CHAPTER VII

### COUNCIL MINUTES

DEER PARK VILLAGE OFFICIALS HELD THEIR FIRST COUNCIL MEETING on May 11, 1912 in a rented back room (\$6 yearly) of Dwire's Saloon, Blue Ash Pike and Glenway Avenue (presently the Deer Park Inn).

Council meetings remained at that location until 1922, when meetings were held at the Amity School on Amity Road (now Galbraith Road). In the fourteen years that followed, Council moved back and forth between the two locations. It was not until the completion and dedication of the new municipal building at Matson and Beech Avenues on December 4, 1936, that Council Chambers, along with all city offices, fire, police and service departments were relocated. The Village provided \$11,000 and the Public Works Administration grant \$9,000 for its construction.

The first meeting of Council held in the new chambers, located on the second floor of the building, took place on October 23, 1936. Redecorated in 1961, Council meetings still remain in these quarters at the present time.

In this history, we shall endeavor to highlight only the minutes recorded from 1976 to the present time. Prior minutes and events were expertly documented by Nick Nimersheim in the Deer Park Bicentennial Commission's THE HISTORY OF DEER PARK.

In 1976, Council, in an effort to add some much needed revenue, proposed that the existing 1% earnings tax be raised to 2%. However, voter turn-out defeated this proposed increase by a vote of 1178 to 2039.

In January, 1977, the City Solicitor revealed that the Supreme Court's decision made obsolete the Schairbaum property owners suit against the City of Deer Park for refusal to permit a multi-unit, federally assisted, HUD housing project to be erected on their property.

After a devastating winter, Mayor Healy appointed a committee to investigate possible financial aid, which

might be available to the City. A letter was also sent to President Carter in hopes of having Deer Park declared a federal "disaster area". Although parts of Ohio were declared as such, Deer Park, officials were told, did not qualify.

Council, in a second attempt to pass a proposed city earnings tax increase, authorized the placing of a 1.5% earnings tax proposal on the June 1977, ballot. Voters then passed this revised increase.

Ohio House Bill - 518, the "imposing of proper safety measures on all dumpsters", was to become part of Ohio law in 1978. Deer Park Fire Chief Louis Voelker had initiated the fight for stronger safety measures and was joined shortly thereafter by Erwin Schmidt, honorary councilman and local businessman. Not only had they spearheaded this legislature locally, but they had also taken their facts to Columbus, presenting them before State officials. Their action was prompted by the untimely death of a Deer Park child after being pinned beneath an overturned dumpster.

City Solicitor James D. Wais resigned in 1978, and Daniel Mulholland was appointed to fill the vacancy. David Dvorak was also appointed Civil Defense Chief at that time. The newly created position of Deputy Auditor was filled with the appointment of Vernon Bailey.

Sonar scanning was approved in 1979 for Gail Drive, Frontenac and Quartermaine Avenues and Colton Lane, following extensive street deterioration in that area.

After the signing of a cable television franchise in 1979 (with Warner Cable Communications, Inc.), cable was being installed in over 700 homes in the City, a grand opening of the system was scheduled for April, 1980. A special Citizens Commission was set-up to monitor services and encourage public and educational use. Councilman Robert Schuler chaired this commission.

Upon the death of former Mayor and Councilman William Kleiman, jr., John Applegate and Bernice Schoeny were nominated, Bernice Schoeny was the choice and was sworn-in on May 22nd. (a House Bill pending at that time would have the Central Committee of the Councilperson's appropriate political party choose the replacement.)

Council chambers were filled to capacity with Duneden, Irwin and Richmond Avenue residents following the issuing of what they termed "an excessive number of citations being issued for blocking of sidewalks and overnight parking violations in their area". After lengthy discussions, Safety-Service Director O'Leary issued a moratorium on this type of citation - citywide.

A variance was granted by Council for the operation of a lodging house for the elderly to be located in the old St. John's Convent on Plainfield Road.

A resolution was prepared for the family of retired Police Chief Nick Nimersheim who had passed away during 1980. A similar resolution was prepared for the family of Patrolman Raymond Wavra.

The Planning Commission received a request from Henry Schneider of the East Galbraith Nursing Home, for a special permit for a variance in order to construct an independent living unit for the elderly at 3801 East Galbraith Road. A public hearing was to be scheduled.

Hamilton County Commissioners were requested to review the possibility of repairing Plainfield Road with the \$5 license tax money. The request was denied.

After a lengthy public hearing on June 3rd, regarding the proposed variance for the independent living unit, Council authorized and approved the special permit for a variance on 3.573 acres on the south side of Galbraith Road.

A resolution was passed honoring the memory and years of service to the City of Deer Park by Frank Menke.

In 1982, the Ohio Legislature moved the appointment of the tax commissioner to Council's control upon the appointment of a municipal earnings tax commission.

Councilman Robert DeAngelis resigned, effective February 21st. It was noted at that time that the central committee of the appropriate political party would, under the new State ruling, appoint his successor. David A. Collins was then selected for the Ward I vacancy.

A letter was submitted to council by the police department, signed by 118 residents, urging that the police/city negotiations for wages and benefits be resolved as soon as possible. It was at that time that the police rejected the Safety Committee's latest offer. A suit, filed against the City by the police department, followed with the judge ruling in favor of the City of Deer Park.

The newly formed Tax Commission named John C. Applegate to the post of tax commissioner, succeeding William E. Smith.

A proposal was submitted to the Planning Commission and to Council for the proposed construction of (two) four-family apartments on the north side of Galbraith Road, east of Plainfield Road. Plans were approved but were later withdrawn, and an application was submitted for the construction of the present Charter Oaks Federal Savings Bank.

James C. Canning was appointed tax commissioner in 1984, succeeding former commissioner John C. Applegate.

Erwin Schmidt proposed a plan to council, whereby the city would realize an annual savings of \$40,000-\$50,000 yearly by having garbage picked-up by a commercial company rather than by the city.

Henry Schneider, owner of East Galbraith Nursing Home and Amber Park Independent Living, presented drawings and information regarding proposed additions for both building to Council. Subsequent public hearings were well-attended by many concerned residents. Council's final decision was the rejection of both proposals.

Council in 1985, approved a contract with Rumpke Waste, Inc., after research had revealed that a substantial savings could indeed be realized by the city. Service by Rumpke began on February 4th.

Council was advised in 1985 of the disbanding of the Sycamore-Deer Park Jaycees local organization.

John C. Applegate was re-appointed tax commissioner in 1986, replacing James C. Canning.



A resolution was passed in memory of the many dedicated years of service to the city by former Councilman Leo "Hap" Leonard.

A town meeting was held on June 1st to discuss the proposed swimming pool levy. A second meeting was also scheduled.

The Deer Park Democratic Central Committee named Martin Lavelle, 3752 St. John's Terrace, to the vacancy in Ward II. William Henke had resigned his council position earlier since he was moving from the City.

Amberley Village officials distributed letters to residents and businesses requesting donations in return for the service provided by the Deer Park Life Squad during the year. Donations to date (October, 1986) have reached over \$17,000.

Council adopted a new "Nursing Home and Retirement Center District" possibly to be added to the city's codified ordinances after the holding of a public hearing.

A proposed levy, to pay for one full-time paid fire chief and two full-time paid fire personnel, was requested by Fire Chief Hagy.

City officials were advised that Conrail Railroad had been sold to the Indiana & Ohio Railroad, which would continue service to several Blue Ash, Ohio businesses.

In February, 1987, Mayor Healy announced that David O'Leary had been appointed Chairman of Deer Park's 75th Anniversary of Incorporation. The first of many committee meetings took place on Sunday, March 1st. A week-long celebration is being planned for the week of August 16-22nd.

A Certificate of Merit was issued to the family of former Councilman George Horn upon his passing. Mr. Horn had devoted many years of service to the City in several official capacities.

A public hearing was held regarding a request by Larry's Locksmith, Plainfield Road, for a requested variance of set-back from property line and parking ratio. Opposition by many residents of that area was heard at that time. Council's final decision resulted in denial of the proposed

variance as submitted.

Present city officials include Francis Healy, Mayor, David O'Leary, Safety-Service Director, David Collins, Council President, Michael Stewart, Martin Lavelle, Robert O'Leary, Donald Lyon, Helen Camp, Ann Poole and Joseph Schoeny, Councilpersons. George Diersing serves as Auditor, Elaine Dellecave, Treasurer and Warren Ritchie, Law Director. Richard Wilson, jr. is Council Clerk, Mary Renner, Court Clerk, John Applegate, Tax Commissioner and Jim Feldhaus, Building Inspector.

Members of the Recreation Board are listed under the Chapter on Chamberlain Park.

Civil Service Commission members are Larry Wheatley, Wilbur Schmidtgoesling and Carl Fischer.

The Planning Commission includes Philip Hebenstreit, Joseph Kamp and Louis Illing.



DWIRE'S SALOON 1895-1915

First Council meeting held here on May 11, 1912. Picture taken on north side of building. Blue Ash Road & Glenway Avenue. Presently Deer Park Inn. (Credit-M. & H. Tegenkamp)



DEER PARK COUNCIL - STUDENT NIGHT - APRIL, 1975

Seated (l-r) K. Donovan, M. Boyd, D. White, D. Burgoyne, M. Doud, B. Murray, K. Bell, J. Schlie. Standing second row (l-r) B. Schoeny, J. Crema, G. Horn, C. Dearringer, Mayor Kleiman, H. Alcorn, J. Wais, J. Uehlin, L. Leonard, A. Keegan, S. Martin. Third row (l-r) G. Wilde, D. Holle, R. O'Leary, E. Laycock, F. Healy, J. Canning, J. Ziegler, D. McKeown. (Credit-Helen Camp)

## CHAPTER VIII

### CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

THE DEER PARK WELFARE ASSOCIATION was formerly called the Deer Park Civic Association when founded and incorporated in March, 1930. Their purpose of full cooperation with city officials and other local organizations remained the same after the name change and was effective well into the 50's. This association financially supported and promoted Village incorporation and the playfield bond issues. It also gave a \$200 donation towards the first street sign expenses and the purchasing of trees planted in the park. It sponsored a city motto contest, with the winning entry, "The Right Town For a Bright Future", being widely used for many years.

DEER PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS P.T.A.: Realizing a good school system is the basis of a good community, twenty ladies met at the home of Mrs. John Chamberlain in April, 1909, and formed the Mothers' Club of Amity School. It was later changed to Amity P.T.A., and then in 1958, to the Deer Park Elementary Schools P.T.A., after the addition of Holmes and Howard Elementary Schools. In 1946, Mrs. Norman Schraffenberger founded the Deer Park High School P.T.A., known presently as the Deer Park Junior-Senior High School P.T.A., after transfer of the seventh and eighth grade students from the Amity building. Our community has been greatly enriched by the P.T.A. sponsored Adult Evening Classes, reputed to be one of the county's finest programs.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: The Fenwick Council of this Catholic family fraternal service organization first met and was formed in May, 1945, in the basement of the Nativity Church, later moving to their present location on Linden Avenue in 1965 (formerly the American Legion Post). Community service projects include annual sponsorship of the St. John/St. Saviour Turkey Bowl football game, school patrol guard's annual luncheon and presentation of Community and Youth Leader Awards. A luncheon is served each Wednesday to area senior citizens.



SYCAMORE-DEER PARK KIWANIS: The local chapter was organized in 1948 and continues to meet every Tuesday at Holmes School. The community-minded group has in the past sponsored the Deer Park Key Club, matinee movies at the old Deer Park Theater, Kid's Day at Lunken Field Air Show and, also in the past, Student Government Dinner/Meeting of Council. Other worthwhile projects have included providing of funds for lighting of Deer Park High School football field, financial assistance for children of Longview Hospital, and distribution of holiday baskets to area needy families.

SYCAMORE-DEER PARK JAYCEES formed the local chapter in 1954. They were a group of young men active in promoting the city and its affairs - until dissolution of the chapter in 1986. Past projects have included a Community Attitude Survey, Blood Bank Program, Chamberlain Park Easter Egg Hunts, Teen Dances, and the erecting of bus stop shelters citywide. The original "Haunted House" fund raiser in 1970, and those that followed, raised over \$300,000. From these proceeds, the Deer Park Community Center (\$40,000), and the Sycamore Park Community Center were constructed. The Children's Unit of Longview Hospital, the Stepping Stones Center, and the Cincinnati Recreation Board (Jaycees purchased first show wagon), also benefited from these proceeds.

CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION: During World War II, several volunteers spent many hours in weekly training in order to better protect and defend our citizens. When the possibility of a nuclear attack threatened in the mid-fifties, Mayor Palmer reactivated and revamped this program into one of the top units in the county.

DEER PARK SENIOR CITIZENS: Realizing the need for a recreational outlet for this age group, Mayor Niehaus called upon fifteen or so residents to form this association in May, 1965. The present membership of 75 continues to meet each Tuesday at the Community Center for cards, bingo, and an occasional speaker or dinner outing.

DEER PARK PLAYGROUND MOTHER'S CLUB was organized in October, 1941, at the request of Mayor Young, to assist in the adoption of rules and regulations, as well as the





DEER PARK WELFARE ASSOCIATION - 1940  
 Seated - Pres. H. Hoernschemeyer. Standing -  
 F. Murphy, E. Rielag, J. Vance, J. Dunham,  
 W. Thompson, H. Schuester, J. Dvorak, H.  
 Wirthlin and W. Chamberlain.



DEER PARK PLAYGROUND & CIVIC CLUB - 1970  
 Spring flower planting.  
 (l-r) Darleene Buckley, Helen Camp, Alice Guenther,  
 June Marty, Polly Twidale. (Credit-Helen Camp)

supervision of play in the new Village park. Members of the Mother's Clubs of both the Deer Park Public School and St. John Parochial School composed the original group. To expand their services citywide, the name was changed to the Deer Park Playground and Civic Club in 1965. Organization and sponsorship of the first girls' softball league was among one of their numerous projects, as was Playday in the park, Easter Egg Hunts and Park Teen Dances. Spring flower planting citywide, holiday decoration of city entrance signs, and the traditional Twelfth Night services were among other projects sponsored over the years. The last meeting was held in December, 1979.

NORTHEASTERN HILLS SENIOR CITIZENS originated in 1965 as a social club and continues to meet each Wednesday at the Bishop Fenwick Knights of Columbus Hall on Linden Avenue. Special events, such as a luncheon or occasional out-of-town trip are planned monthly. Current president is Anne Pfister,, with the oldest member being Ella Lemker (91 years young in September!). Next came Magadalene Turner and Thelma Larman who joined at the second meeting.

THE DEER PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and THE DEER PARK BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION were also active periodically, as were other organizations, as the need arose in the community.

The development and growth of our community has been due largely to the many civic-minded volunteers who, over the years, have given so freely of their time and efforts to help in making Deer Park "The Right Town For a Bright Future". If we have failed to mention your organization, we apologize, and please know that it was not intentional.

CHAPTER IX  
VILLAGE & CITY MAYORS

1912-15	JAMES J. O'LEARY
1916-17	JOHN W. CHAMBERLAIN
1918-19	GEORGE STEMAN
1920-21	HENRY BUCK
1922-23	OTTO KUEHN
1924-27	HOWARD WOLF
1928-31	GEORGE STEMAN
1932-33	ROBERT WOESTE
1934-37	WILLIAM HENSING
1938-39	JOSEPH R. LARSES
1940-45	* RAY H. YOUNG
1946-47	ALVIN J. BUCK
1948-49	* HERMAN HOERNSCHEMEYER
1950-55	JACOB E. PALMER
1956-63	LEO F. RENNER
1964-71	* GEORGE NIEHAUS
1972-75	WILLIAM KLEIMAN
1976-Present	FRANCIS R. HEALY

\* Denotes Living Mayors

## CHAPTER X

### FACTS AND FOLKLORE

THE CINCINNATI LEBANON AND NORTHERN RAILROAD (formerly Cincinnati Northern Railway Co.) was established in 1880 and had a depot at the corner of Blue Ash Pike and Webster Avenue (presently Barresi's parking lot). In 1900 a station was built at Plainfield Pike and what is now Deer Park Avenue, it is said that the building, converted into a house, still stands today. A second station was built at Matson Avenue and Blue Ash Pike in 1933. In 1968, the railroad became part of the Penn Central Railroad after having been a part of the giant Pennsylvania Railroad in 1921. Then, in 1977, it became part of Conrail Rail System. It is reported to have been the busiest route during the 1937 flood, running day and night freight and passenger service at a maximum. It was the only railroad able to get into and out of Cincinnati during this disaster. Nicknamed the "Highland Route", a pictorial real estate brochure was published during its early days in order that people could view homes without having to go and see them. Deer Park was described as being nine miles from Cincinnati and having "the handsomest and most commodious depot on the road". It goes on to say "neat homes abound and the Catholic Church has a handsome brick building. A volunteer fire company has been in existence for several years and has apparatus and buildings of its own". (the A.R. Darling home was featured).

OLDTIMERS RECALL THEIR PARENTS telling them about Plainfield Pike when it was a mere bridle path one traveled to reach Montgomery Pike.

IN THE EARLY 1900'S, residents were reported to have traveled to Cincinnati by trolley. Seems the trolley only came as far as Kennedy Heights, so most "commuters" had to walk the rest of the way from there.

DEER PARK - WHAT'S IN A NAME? Some articles that we have read in researching our city's history indicate that "Deer Park" may have been chosen by John Woltz (local real estate man) in honor of a Maryland summer resort.

"ONE OF THE BIGGEST DAYS IN THE HISTORY OF DEER PARK" is how it was termed in 1911. Of course, we're referring to one of the earliest auto races of its kind. The course was the rough country roads from Silverton, over Plainfield Pike, south on Montgomery Pike and back to the finish line in Silverton. Powell Crosley, jr., in cooperation with the Automobile Club, organized the event with "some of the best drivers in the county participating"!

IT'S A FACT - HEGNER AVENUE, as late as December, 1912 was known as "Scrugham Avenue", named we suspect, for a prominent Cincinnati who helped plan the Interurban Train Lines in 1898. Also of interest was the fact that O'Leary Avenue was called Oakwood, and Maple Avenue was Linden. That's right, during those early days - there were two Oakwood and two Linden Avenues!

Documentation shows that on March 6, 1922, Wilbur Rodgers, of Amity Road, requested and received permission from Council to install a 500 gallon filling station on his property - thus, becoming the owner of the first filling station in Deer Park. (the Shell Station at Blue Ash Road and Galbraith Road occupies that site today).

IN THE EARLY 20'S, a pioneer real estate man named "Cresap" launched a subdivision on part of the old Schenck farmland, advertising it as "The Town Beyond the Smoke".

MR. WOLF FROM DEER PARK AND MR. BOYD FROM ROSSMOYNE requested Council's approval, in 1915, to operate a "moving picture show" in Deer Park. Since no ordinance existed to deny the request, it was granted pending surveillance by both Marshall and Mayor.

RECORDS SHOW THAT IN THE ELECTION FOR VILLAGE MARSHALL in 1925, candidate Walter Schneider received an overwhelming 241 votes, while his nearest opponents received one each - we suspect their own!

MINUTES FROM THAT SAME MEETING in 1925, report that a visit was made to the mayor by a vigilante committee regarding "chicken thieves" in the north end of Deer Park.



DEER PARK'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

David O'Leary, Chairman	William Jetter, jr.
Francis Healy, Mayor	Judy Luck
John Applegate	Terry Ott
Helen Camp	Ann Poole
Daivd Collins	Betty Poole
Dorothy Condon	Robert Poole
Marilyn Gaucher	Wilbur Schmidtgoesling
Harry Gilligan	Joseph Schoeny
Michael Hagy	Mary Shafer
Edward Hirsch	Chester Steele
Penny Hodge	Michael Stewart
Donna Hollatz	Louis Voelker
John Hollatz	Christian Woelfle
Jerry Jackson	Pamela Young

Although only the committee member's names are listed above- countless other individuals and businesses took the time to become involved in the planning of this community celebration. Therefore, the success of its special events will be due in part to their dedicated time, efforts and/or financial support.

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Everett Boyd	Betty Poole
Donna Conner	Louell Poole
Robert Gloss	Terri Prem
Eileen Hollatz	Cherry & Harold Ruwe
Penny Hodge	Joseph Schlie
Jerry Jackson	Lorraine Schulz
Walter James	Erwin Schmidt
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