



The Iron Dog Returns Home

Several years ago, Bob Bartley became very interested in the "Iron Dog Legend". The dog was on a property on 25A and Evanston Rd. It had stood there over 100 years and was in dire need of repair.

A couple of years ago the farm changed hands. The new owners were from out of state and had no interest in keeping the dog. Their realtor contacted the Tippecanoe Historical Society suggesting someone talk to the new owners about the dog. Bob stepped up and spearheaded the project. He, along with Gordon Honeyman and Dave Cook, talked to the Bowmans. They donated the dog to the Society and used their heavy equipment to move it to a building on Bob's property. It was in several pieces, and for whatever reason, cement had been poured into the dog. Over several months, while carefully cleaning the dog and chipping away at the cement, Bob researched places that could restore the dog. He settled on McKay Lodge Conservation Laboratory, Inc. in Oberlin Ohio, just south of Cleveland. On June 25, 2021, Bob and Chuck Kessler loaded all the pieces into Bob's truck and drove them to Oberlin. Employee Tom Podnar kept in close contact with Bob throughout the project.

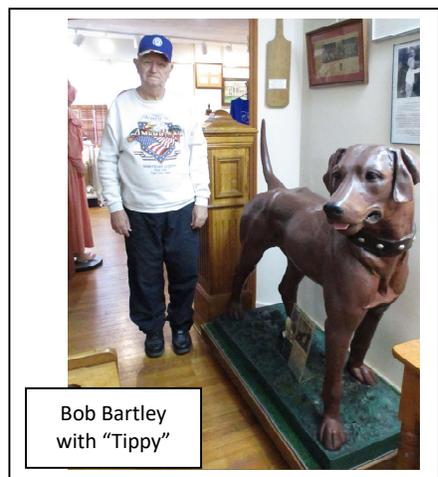


Photo by Carla Ungerecht

On March 17, 2022, Will Durban and Curtis Macartney, both of whom were deeply involved in the project, made the 300-mile trip to bring this 150-year-old dog back home to Tipp City. They set the 300-pound dog in place in the Tippecanoe Historical Society Museum. The Society is still accepting donations of any amount to cover the expense of this project. Previous donations have been greatly appreciated. The museum is open Saturdays from 10:00 – 2:00. Stop in and say hello to the dog and take the time to browse awhile.



Will Durban & Curtis Macartney deliver the dog
Photo by Carla Ungerecht



Bob Bartley with "Tippy"

It's a Puzzle

Mention Red Devil sandwich or cherry cokes and everyone says, Dunnicks if you are over 70...Polly's, if you are over 50 and from there we progress to Lombardos, Robertas, Rohrsers and finally the Coldwater. All of these eateries were found in the Vocke building, owned at present by Steve and Sally Watson. Someone mentions dill pickles and school lunch time and off we go building on another puzzle of memories of the restaurants that occupied the NW corner of Main and 2nd streets in Tipp city. We have the first 6 pieces of our puzzle.

Here come more pieces. Ed and Helen Dunnick owned Dunnicks, Tom Rawlins worked the counter there, and Tom's Aunt Ruth Parsons was a cook there (pieces 7,8 & 9). The left wall, as you entered this favorite high school hangout, was filled with elevated large wooden booths with high backs that supported coat hooks, the coats there often hiding the occupants. That's 10. Tom also shares that Ed stored his ice cream in an "icebox" located under the floorboards!! (11). Kids packed the place after ballgames in the high school located on Dow Street (Anyone know what happened to the large Red Devil that adorned the east wall?) (12). Dunnicks owned the popular establishment from somewhere in the early 1940's. An April 1951 edition of the Tipp City Herald lists the restaurant as a sponsor of the March of Dimes Campaign and also alerted their customers that they needed to order their Double Kay Nuts and Sealtest Ice Cream early for Easter as Dunnick's would be closed for Easter (13 and 14). The real recipe for the Red Devil sandwich, the famous menu item everyone remembers, according to the family: ground beef, onions, and Heinz catsup (15). Someone remembers that kids would turn up the sound on the jukebox and that Ed Dunnick was not a fan of that action!! (16)

Ruth says she met her boyfriend Bob there after his football practice and her activities at the Tipp City Herald office as they published the Vandalia Aviator high school newspaper. Karen Holtvoigt Cain says her sister Barb worked at Dunnicks, but when she was in High school it was Polly's and all the kids hung out for Red Devils and cherry cokes. They also loved the hard pretzels that they loaded with mustard. She says that one evening, after a game, Polly locked the front door and wouldn't let anyone out till she gave them a lecture!! Weezie and she had to go get their dad, who was upstairs at the Thistle club, when it was time to mash the potatoes for supper. (Are we up to 21??) Polly's was named for Polly Jackson, the current owner. She was Ed Dunnicks aunt and had worked for him (number 22 and 23). Lony, who was a farm boy and not used to the town, said he got lost going from the corner back to school after a quick 40-minute lunch at Polly's. Lots of others in high school then confirm the quick trek down to the corner for lunch or to Jointers as there was no school lunch at the high school. Gordon remembers that Jane Timmer organized a "sit in" to protest something he cannot recall (24). Dave Cook relates that Polly had 8" heavy glasses for large drinks. The guys with " a good arm" would smuggle one of them out and throw it from the sidewalk in front up onto the roof across the street and it would hopefully hit the brick wall and rain down glass on the sidewalk for what seemed minutes. They tried it after dark when stores across the street were not open. (Is that 25?) (*Thankfully, this was before the rec came to town. **Writer's note***). Bob Bartley says that he would go there to hang out after he finished his mail route to wait for his time to return to the post office to finish his day (28). Bill Dorsey says he and Ken Eickmeyer had a hamburger eating contest. Bill can't remember the number consumed but he knows he didn't lose!!! (27) Gordon Honeyman adds that his crowd used to pitch pennies on the sidewalk below the Gem City sign on the east side of the building. Gordon worked down the street at the Creamery (28). Verna shares that she worked at Cramer's Drug Store next door west and always went to Polly's after school before work (29). She remembers too that Polly's was loved by older folks as well. Loraine Wollenhaupt and Edna Moser were daily visitors (30). Mike Jackson tells of leaving high school and running to the corner for the 40-minute lunch break to grab a table. He said the bill was 40 cents plus 1 cent more for a small drink!!! He added that on Friday he could not eat meat so Joe Caty would eat his sandwich (31).

*...to be continued – four restaurants to go
by Ruth White*



Museum Display Case

The rotating display case has been set up with items brought in a short time ago. Vickie Kuhls Blakey brought in a hat in a box that her dad, Bob Kuhls, bought in Snell's Clothing Store. The receipt says he paid \$12.95 for it. After looking around, she went home and brought in a number of items she earned during her high school days. She was a Devilaire and a cheerleader and pursued other interests, as her school jacket shows. There are two handmade Devilaire dolls plus several other items. Stop in and check out these fun and interesting items.



From the Museum Director

- In the last newsletter, while thanking our volunteers, I stated the time as 10:00 - 12:00. The *correct* time should have read 10:00 - 2:00, which are our regular hours every Saturday.
- We have a special event coming up on Saturday, April 23, from 1:00-3:00. Rob Brundrett will be at the museum to discuss and autograph his two books. He is a Tipp graduate. "Vietnam On My Mind" is a collection of short stories based on events that took place in South Vietnam 1972 to 1973 while he was stationed there. "Girl from the Racetrack" is a novel woven around his experiences and actual areas of Vietnam. Even if you have already purchased his books, stop in and visit with Rob in person.
- We have had several donations recently. Tammy Youngman brought in, among other things, some very old Tipp Heralds. Her stepfather was Jim Finch, who was raised by Penny and Helen Finch. Vicki Blakely brought in some things of her dad's, Robert Kuhls. She also brought us a number of Devilaire items, including handmade dolls and her school jacket.
- We also had some inquiries. Ed Warniment is part of a Geocaching Club. We found out it is a form of a scavenger hunt. Tipp is on their upcoming schedule, and he needed photos of some of our downtown buildings. Using our scanned picture files, he was able to instruct Jackie on how to load them on a flash drive for him. Also, John Clingan is seeking information about Throttle Benders Car Club in Tipp in the 1950's. He was especially interested in license plate frames designating a member. If you know anything about this, please call John at 937-506-0101. We would also like to have any information for the museum.
- We are to meet with a lady from out of state who will be in town the end of May. She says her ancestors built the house on what is now the Willow Tree. She is to tour there and also meet at the museum so we can exchange information.

And that's what we are all about!

By Susie Spittler

History of the White House at Spring Meade

Part 3 - Final

William E. Lesher & Leonora (Sally) Flannery Lesher

In November of 1972, Marilyn and her uncle, Roger Razor were remodeling the kitchen in the small house. John and Marilyn were going to move there after their marriage in December. Both she and her uncle saw two boys walking past the barn towards the house. They didn't look familiar but thought that maybe they were just passing through to Floral Acres. They were. They had stolen their father's gun and car that morning, skipped school and headed to Indian Lake for the day. Earlier, on their way home, they had stopped at the rest area near Piqua and while leaving had punctured a hole in their gas tank. There was enough gas to get them to the Lesher property. They were looking for another car to steal to take them the rest of the way home to Dayton. Since they had been spotted, they did go over to Floral Acres and try to steal a car. The owner called the Sheriff and one happened to be in the area. In fact, he was right there! Unfortunately, he tried to stop them and was killed. Sgt. William Morris lost his life. Law Enforcement was called in from all over. This all happened without the residents of Mon Repose knowing. Roger looked out the window to the west and saw a wall of men walking eastward toward the house. He opened the window and yelled that they were not permitted to hunt in those fields. The officer closest motioned for us to get down. He came up to the house and told us that an officer had been shot and the suspects had headed our way. We then heard shots coming from our barns. Someone was shooting towards the houses in Floral Acres. Meanwhile, Marilyn's mother had realized that Bill's old horse, Bob had run off the property because something had spooked him. Sally had gone into the stalls to get his halter and go get him, not realizing that there was someone hiding in the barn with a gun. When she stopped by the little house to tell Marilyn and Roger where she was going, the officers stopped her. It was a long, long night. Shots being fired, a horse running lose, 3 people held up in the small house for safety while an "army" of law enforcement tried to force the young men to surrender. Gun shots, tear gas, bull horns...asking the boys to give themselves up. It was all very surreal. I-75 and 25-A were both closed, and a large spotlight was brought in to illuminate the barn and area. Joe Lesher was hauling grain to the elevator and was stopped on I-75 and tried to get them to let him into the houses, to make sure everyone was alright. The people in charge on I-75 told him that they were alright but held him there. During all of this, Bill Lesher was running the combine over on Kessler Cowlesville Rd. They got word to him as to what was going on and he joined the others in the little house. It was late in the night when the officers stormed the barn and swooped through the entire barn. In the end, one of the young men was found just a few feet from where Sally had retrieved the halter. He had shot himself. It was almost 4 in the morning on Thanksgiving Day when the crime lab left. The Leshers slept but not soundly. They hosted Thanksgiving Dinner for the extended Lesher family that day filling everyone in on their experience.



Marilyn and John were married that December. That morning when Marilyn woke up, big beautiful, fluffy snow was falling. It looked like something out of movie. Soft beautiful snow coming down just for her wedding... By 11 AM, the florist was bringing the flowers because they were afraid they wouldn't make it. Everyone was wishing the snow would stop! Her dad had already plowed the barnyard twice for parking! At 3 PM, they went to pick up the Lesher Grandparents who lived just south of Tipp, but her other grandparents would not be able to make it due to the large amount of snow that fell. They were married in front of the fireplace with the immediate family, in the good living room, while the other guests were brought into the big room for the reception. Plans for a little overnight honeymoon were cancelled due to the snow. The couple took a trip to later in February.

White House at Spring Meade cont.

The night they returned from their trip, John was in the basement hanging some peg board above the washer when he rebroke his leg. He was taken back to Miami Valley where he was put in a walking body cast. Two weeks later he had more surgery, more traction, and another body cast. John and Marilyn moved into the main house with her parents, so that she could have help taking care of John since she was pregnant. John was still in a body cast when their son was born. The couple moved back to the little house in late spring. The first three of John and Marilyn's four children were born while they lived on the farm. In 1982 they moved just south of Tipp City.

Joel was married to Esther Maria Marquez in 1982. Esther had been an exchange student at Springfield North High School. Joe's uncle Herman Flannery had brought Esther to one of the family get togethers, in order for her to meet John and Marilyn's exchange student. Joel found out that she hadn't seen anything of Ohio while she was in here, so he began to show her around the area. Joel and Esther were married in front of the house in May of 1982. Well, that was the first wedding. Since she was from Mexico, they actually were married 5 times. Of course, one of the weddings took place in Mexico.

Bill and Sally decided to build a log home on their farm south of Tipp City and began construction in 1983. The Mon Repose property was put up for sale. They knew that it would take just the right buyer for such a property and were prepared for it to take quite some time. They moved into their new home in 1985 and rented out the house at Mon Repos. Many offers to buy the property were made but none of them were quite right and all of them wanted to remove the buildings and start with a clean slate. They felt that it would take too much money to turn the existing buildings into what they needed. The Leshers were very happy when UVMC approached them with their plans. The purchase was made in 1990. The Leshers had farmed the land that is now Spring Meade for over 28 years and owned the land of the John Kerr farm, which has now been in the Leshner Family for approximately 60 years. In 2006 the family donated part of the property to Tipp City Park. It is called Leshner Woods and is located across from the current High School.

The farm now is the home of Spring Meade, Meijer's Distribution Center, Abbott Laboratories, and several other businesses along 25-A.

Submitted by Marilyn Leshner Richards

Membership News

From **Betty Eickhoff's** daughter, Jill.

The family moved Betty into Randall Residence in February. She has a room right off the lobby which includes a kitchenette, large bathroom, and large closet. She was sad to make this change, but she already knows several other residents and will make new friends. She and Bill built their house on N. 7th St. in 1939. The family will see that she gets to spend time on her beloved screened porch this summer. She welcomes visitors any time, but evenings would be a good time. They eat early so the evenings can be long. Her phone will stay the same: 937-667-2148. Her address is: Betty Eickhoff, Randall Residence #202 6400 S. County Rd. 25A, Tipp City, Ohio 45371

Welcome New Members:

Tonya Hittner

John & Marilyn Richards (lifetime)

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES WILL BE OUT BY MID-SUMMER

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 26th – Museum Tour for the Library Staff

Tuesday, May 3rd – Third Grade Downtown Tour

Wednesday May 4th - Third Grade Museum Tour

Tuesday May 10th – Board Meeting

Wednesday May 18th – Picnic and Elections

TBD – Open House to Celebrate the Iron Dog's (aka Tippy) return



Letter from the President

Hello everyone! Hope this finds you continuing to be healthy!

Activities are slowly getting back to normal in our country and that is also true of the Historical Society! Elsewhere in this newsletter there should be a listing of upcoming events/activities but I want to talk about the one that I am most excited about.

Earlier this year, the Board decided once again not to have a banquet. Covid was still a significant problem and it was feared many of our members would choose to remain at home. As we all know, Covid is much reduced and with warmer weather at hand, the Board agreed to host a catered picnic by Hickory River. The date selected is May 18; the menu is ½ of a smoked chicken (each half will be cut in half to make “take home” portions), cole slaw, scalloped potatoes, cornbread, lemonade, sweet tea and water. Dessert will be cookies donated by members. Cost per member will be \$14. A mailing will be going out soon about membership renewals and RSVP for the picnic. The program of the evening will be simply visiting with each other and re-connecting! I hope each of you will seriously consider attending. What better way is there to re-start your involvement with the Historical Society? For those of you who are “newer” members, back in the day, the picnic was one of the highlights of the Society’s calendar. It would be held in July at the home of Chuck and Nancy Cartwright. The absolute best part of the evening was when Chuck would pull out the homemade ice cream! I am not a big fan of ice cream but wow, you really can’t beat the flavor when ice cream is homemade.

Elections have also been delayed and will be conducted at the picnic. Another reason to attend!

Unless you live under a rock, you already know the Iron Dog is back. The Board approved to name the dog “Tippy” for Tippecanoe. I do enjoy giving Bob Bartley a hard time so I told him that “no dog that big should have a name like Tippy” but I will admit it is fitting.

As always, if you have any suggestions or ideas, please share them with a board member. The more people working to assist the Society the better for all of us.

Take care and stay healthy!

Jackie Wahl

