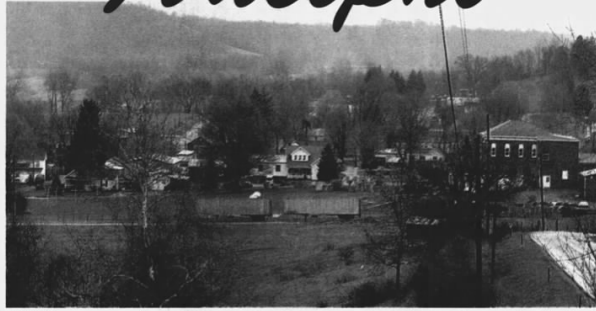


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Sunday, April 2, 2000

Adelphi

Photos by Scott Osborne



By RUTH LIST JONES
For the Gazette

Adelphi One hundred years ago, Adelphi had a population of about 200 people. It is still there. But the population may soon be growing. The town is currently in the process of installing a sewage system with a treatment plant. Because the town will soon have sewage service, and already has Ross County water, local developer Wayne Martin, of Martin & Associates, plans to annex 163 acres into the village and begin a 10 to 15 year project to build 300-400 homes. The village now has about 180 homes, according to Mayor Rounelle Van Fossan.

Van Fossan is a rather reluctant mayor. He served eight years as mayor and decided last election to let someone else hold the reins for public: that the new mayor resigned shortly after taking office, and as president of the Adelphi Village Council, Van Fossan got the job back. But that doesn't keep him from having big plans for his village. In addition to getting grants for the sewerage system and for street repairs, he wants to encourage business owners to look at Poplar Street. Van Fossan's first wife, Rose, died in 1992. He said he would like to see the band, Rounelle, currently serves as village mayor. Landlord, a car wash and a larger store. "There's room for a lot of businesses here," he said.

He also wants to see the village spruce up and plan a large celebration for its 200th birthday in 2004. He already is using inmates from the Ross County Jail to fix up the old city hall. He said the building was originally a vaudeville theater and when wallpaper was stripped off the dressing rooms, old signatures of the players from the 1800s were found. Van Fossan said the signatures were preserved. Sisters Lottie Butler Ditz and Leona Butler Barnes, along with a friend Jane Stevens, also want to preserve the history of the village where they grew up.



Sisters Leona Barnes, left, and Lottie Ditz, center, and their friend Jane Stevens stand in front of the old Adelphi High School on Market Street. The building now houses the fire station and Adelphi Senior Nutrition Center.

The three graduated from the old Adelphi High School, built on Market Street in 1919. An addition was built in 1928, adding classrooms, a gymnasium and an auditorium. The last class graduated from that high school in 1952 and the building became a fire department in 1954. It still serves as the fire department, the senior nutrition center, a village center and a playground. All three remember an outburst behind the school and a well with a pump in front, where students would pump water into their own cups for drinking.

The village was founded in 1904 with Salt Creek as the northern boundary, according to information in the booklet published for the sesquicentennial in 1954 and in the History of Ross and Highland Counties, published in 1980.

It was platted by Henry and Ruben Abrams on May 19 of that year. George Benick probably did the survey, and laid out a town with five streets running north and south and five streets running east and west on a high spot overlooking the Pickaway Plains. It was named by an early settler who called it after the Greek Adolph, known as the circle of Apollo. The first distillery was built in 1807 and the first baby was Israel Zimmerman, born Dec. 12, 1804, in Green Township where Adelphi was located, was created from Green Township on June 11,

center for Augustus Rose. There he developed a bologna that became a local specialty. The Ritter sisters said he began making the bologna around the beginning of the 1900s. The last person who was known to have the family recipe for the bologna was Mandy Congrow's husband Bill. He worked for Santa and made the bologna. According to a 1989 story in the Chillicothe Gazette, Mandy was thought by many people to know the recipe after her husband died, but she would never admit to it. If she knew it, villagers said, it is thought she took it to her grave with her.

The town still has a few businesses. The mayor and his wife have the Hilltop Market, a grocery and deli-through in the village. There is the Corner Pub, which used to be a restaurant, Mike's Tires and Auto Repair, Merle-Magic, which has videos, pizza and ice cream, and Henderson's Sales, a hardware store.

The Kingston National Bank has a branch in the town, but there is no longer a gas station outside the Post Office on State Route 12.

The town still has two churches. The Methodist Church was established in 1820 and a new church was built in 1958. It was remodelled in 1901 and is still holding services. There is also a Community Church in the village. The original Lutheran church is gone, but the old Lutheran cemetery still has grave markers dating back to the village's original settlers. But one long-standing tradition survives in the village that is preparing for change in its upcoming third century-in-hand. The village has had a community band for many, many years. The Adelphi Band, organized in 1924 by the K. of K. Lodge, is still going strong and is a regular feature at area festivals and events.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

One early citizen was notable in Adelphi's history. In 1855, John Karshner built a covered bridge over Salt Creek. It was a well-known landmark for nearly a century in 1954, the state built a new bridge over Salt Creek, on Ohio 180, and tore down and burned the old wooden bridge. "We fought like everything to keep that old bridge," said Barnes. "But that's what the state did, they tore down the old when they built the new one."

Karshner also built a railroad, the Kingston and Adelphi Railroad, in 1862. It was completed in 1865. The railroad ran between Adelphi and Kingston. By 1909 the railroad was closed. But about that time, Augustus Santa was making the village famous with his bologna. He moved from Chillicothe to the village to be a meat

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Sun, Mar 17, 2019