

YESTERDAY

**TODAY
and
TOMORROW**

1871 - Laurelville - 1971



A

DEDICATION

We of the Centennial Committee do here-by dedicate this booklet to the memory of those citizens of the past generations who lived, worked and planned to build a better community for themselves and their children.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

For the materials contained in this booklet, we, the Centennial Committee, are indebted to many people who contributed materials and information to make it the historical record that it is.

CARNIVAL AND CENTENNIAL PROGRAM FOR JULY 20 TO 24, 1971

July 20	-	8:00 P.M.	-	Opening Invocation Sing Along
July 21	-	7:30	-	Beauty Contest Music
July 22	-	8:00	-	Pie Eating Contest Music
July 23	-	8:00	-	Flippo the Clown From Channel 10
July 24	-	1:00	-	Pony Pull
		6:00	-	Parade
		8:00	-	Beard Contest
		9:00	-	Dance

Exhibit of antiques in city building each evening.

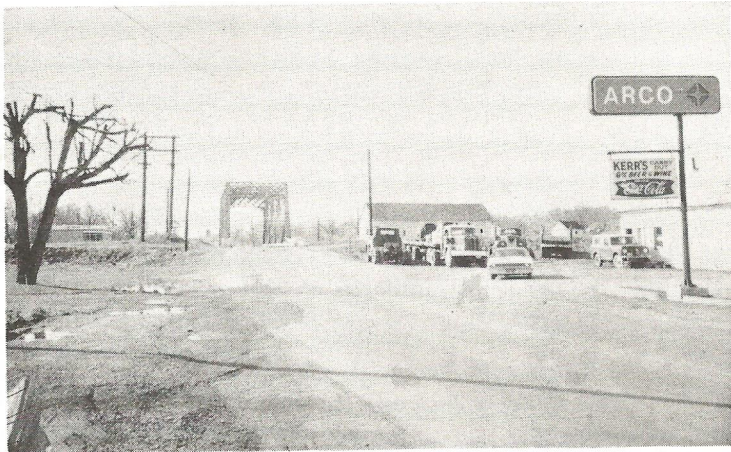
CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Dalton DeLong	—	Chrm.
Florence Stahr	—	Secretary
Evelyn Mettler	—	Treasurer
Robert Bowers	—	Member
Dwight Eveland	—	Member
Mary Frances Poling	—	Member
C. B. Chilcote	—	Member
Thomas Ebert	—	Mayor
Paul Smith	—	Member
Celesta Hoy	—	Member

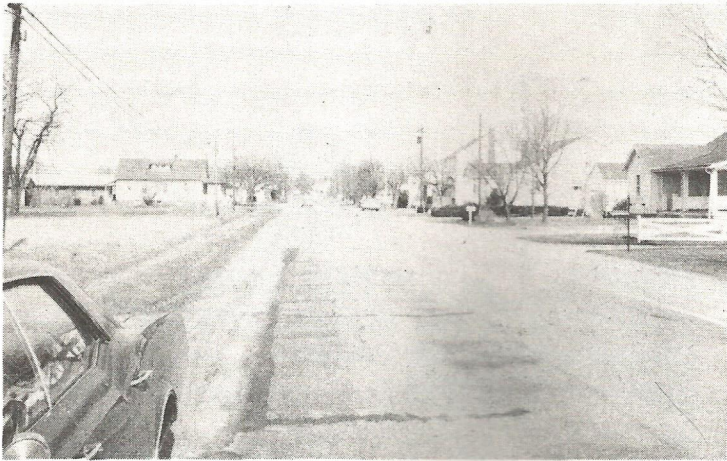
BRIDGES



THE OLD COVERED BRIDGE
This bridge stood for many years
at the west edge of Laurelville.



THE IRON BRIDGE
This bridge replaced the covered bridge over Laurel Creek.
Plans are now complete. This bridge will be replaced in 1972.



Approach to Laurelville from the south-east on State Route 56.



Approaching Laurelville from the north by way of Route 180.

EARLY PIONEER LIFE

Ohio being the 17th state to enter the union, many of the early settlers came from some of those eastern states which touched Ohio on the east or at least were fairly near Ohio. Some of these early colonists had only stopped briefly in Pennsylvania, Virginia or Maryland before resuming their westward travels into Ohio and other Western States during this colonial period.

These hardy pioneers were a strong and determined lot whose problems and difficulties would discourage a less resolute and determined band of frontiersmen. To understand our forefathers in this community a little better, as well as some of their problems, we should try to visualize a vast area of timberland, without highways and bridges. They came by way of trails made by other settlers who had moved on farther west or hunting trails made by Indians. This, their new home was not only infested by wild animals but by bands of roving Indians as well. These Indians did not always appreciate the burning desires of these early settlers to establish homes in the middle of their hunting areas, so they often burned the homes or killed some of the white settlers or did other things to show their disapproval.

The motives which drove these colonists into western areas for homes probably was no different than the motives which drive people to do the many things they do today: Adventure, no doubt had something to do with this migration from the east to the west. To better their own circumstances often drive people to explore other areas. Whatever it was that sent them into the Laurelville and community area, it was no doubt, similar to the motive which sent people on the journey which resulted in the settlement of all of the U.S.

The first homes of these new settlers were made of logs primarily because logs were plentiful. Since most of them were farmers anyway clearing the land was a necessary part of making a living by farming in a land covered with timber. They

pooled their efforts and strength to build the log cabins which were to become their new home in this new region. They, no doubt, had distant plans to build a better house sometime in the future, if they liked the area well enough to become a permanent resident.

Logs of the same size were cut, hewed and shaped then placed one on top of another until the desired height was attained usually 8 or 10 feet. Gables were formed, ridge timbers set and rafters placed. Split wood shingles were used for the roof. These cabins, usually 12 x 12 ft. or 16 x 16 or for that matter any desirable size the owner had in mind. Each cabin had an average sized window, many times glass was not available so oiled paper or the skins of animals were used to keep out the wind and rain. The door, usually larger than an average sized door was made of heavy planking with wooden hinges and latch. The latch was lifted with a string from the outside, if the latch string was out; otherwise someone from the inside would be required to lift the latch.

The cabin was weather proofed by a process of chinking between the logs with mud. Clay was preferred because it would last longer than ordinary soil. Rechinking was necessary each fall to make the cabin more weather proof for winter.

The fireplace was usually made of stone, if stone was available, other wise clay was used to form the fireplace. The fireplace was usually 6 ft. wide and many were even larger than 6 ft. A mantle of stone or wood was built just above the fireplace and was used as a handy shelf for many household things. A musket was often hung on hooks above the mantle so that it would be handy when needed. A long crane was placed on one side of the fireplace on which could be hung pots, kettles and other cooking implements that were needed for cooking. Hooks were available in different lengths so that several different kinds of food might be cooking at one time.

If colonists came into an area in groups, as they frequently did, they would join in a cooperative project to build the cabins. With several working together they could often build a

good sized cabin in two days. The logs were green and heavy and all the construction was heavy work thus requiring the help of several men to work to the best advantage of all.

After the cabin was completed, very often, a "house warming" party would be arranged and all would attend this important social function.

The program would include music and dancing for all with some refreshments being served.

Some communities were more socially minded than others but parties were fairly common especially in the fall and winter seasons.

COOKING

Cooking was a job that required a great deal of time and skill, and was usually done by the house wife or at least by the women folk of the household. Very often the families of these early frontiersmen were large and the food requirement was some what heavy. They ate much meat and very often this was taken from the woodland area and along the streams. It usually consisted of venison, bear, rabbits, quail, grouse, squirrel, turkey and fish along with an adequate supply of beef, pork and mutton. Special efforts to obtain wild berries and honey as well as some vegetables were usually rewarding. Baking bread was a daily chore and bread was made from both corn and wheat.

Preserving foods in colonial America was quite different than it is today. Meats were often salted and dried. Some foods were canned in earthen jars. A spring-house-cave apart from the cabin which could be depended upon to keep foods cool in summer and safe from freezing in winter was a necessary facility for most families.

We have mentioned many different chores for the men and boys of the family but outside of cooking little has been said about the many other duties of the women of this colonial family. The women prepared the food; did the sewing but to obtain the cloth often required much more time and effort

than did the making of the article of clothing. They made the yarn and the flax and then colored this material to make it attractive as well as protective. It can be said that the early colonial housewives influenced or established the styles of men's, women's and children's clothing in the American mid-west in the colonial period. The aristocrat of the plantation area often obtained their clothing from Europe but the typical colonial housewife made hers from the raw materials she had available at home.

The making or obtaining of shoes or boots and moccasins was the responsibility of men in the family. Soon after settlement footwear for the entire family consisted mainly of moccasins, however, as the family became better established they wore more shoes and boots. Moccasins were worn by most adults in summer while children went barefoot. In some of the more populous areas shoe cobblers made boots and shoes and these were usually exchanged for products of the farm.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The early settlers were much concerned about both churches and schools and they made early plans to provide for both.

In the beginning when the population was sparse and paths and trails were very poor school districts were large and students few. They did try to locate the log school building in or near the village or where there was a concentration of dwellings. The school term was short and came in winter when there was less to do at home. The buildings were similar to the log dwellings with perhaps more windows to admit light. The fireplace served the requirement for heat and was similar to those found in the homes except there were no provisions for cooking. Benches and desks were crude. The teacher, probably a local resident, whose pay might be as much as one dollar per day, usually had little formal educational training.

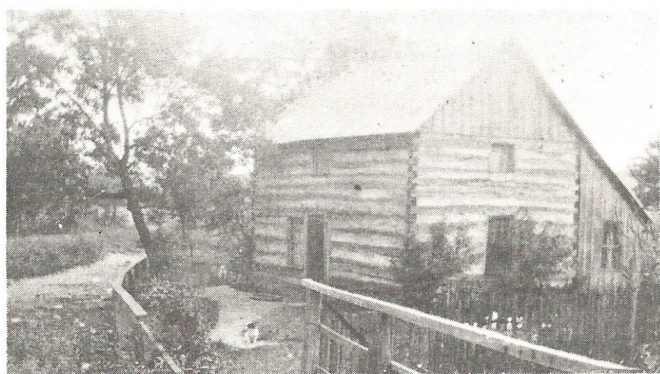
Churches and schools often were located near each other and looked somewhat alike. Churches generally were served by traveling ministers who served several small churches in the same general area. The schedules were usually determined by

the minister and the membership of the local church following a schedule that would prevent as many conflicts as possible. Most colonial families had regular daily devotional services and some homes had this service twice daily, morning and evening. The head of the family usually assumed the responsibility of worship services or prayer service in the home.

Travelers always found a welcome at the pioneer's cabin. It was never full, "there was always room for one more." If the stranger or visitor was looking for land or a place to settle he would find that his host was willing to spend much time and effort to show him the best claims, giving him the best advice possible.

Most of the colonists would be considered good neighbors, willing to share foods, implements and services with others even though they might be located some distance away.

History records usually reveal good health records. In some areas it would seem that diseases and illnesses were non-existent but the true records reveal that much the opposite actually did exist. Diseases like malaria, small pox, diptheria and children's diseases and others as well, were usually around and many were more serious than they are now regarded. Vaccines and modern drugs have indeed benefitted mankind more than we sometimes realize. Hospitals were almost unknown and many of these diseases proved fatal because many of the drugs used today so effectively were unknown in colonial times. Many of the physicians of those days had very little medical training.



The home of Mr. & Mrs. Ward Steele and family of Laurelville, Ohio

JOBS, AND SKILLS OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

In contacting older citizens of this community we find that some of the jobs or skills of the by gone days are no longer in demand. Job skills which would demand higher pay than the ordinary jobs in colonial times are non existant today.

Every town, large or small, would have a good number of blacksmith shops catering to the needs of the community. A good blacksmith would be expected to shoe horses and oxen, repair wagons and other horse drawn vehicles, do some welding and a hundred jobs requiring skill in wood working and metal.

Another shop found in these early colonial settlements would be a harness shop presided over and managed by a harness maker, a respected and skilled artisan of the community. This trade was closely related to the shoe shop because they both worked with leather.

Shoe shops still exist and they are filled with complicated electrical machinery requiring special skills to do the work but quite unlike the machinery found in a similar shop a century ago.

Some of the larger cities of today make leather products for horses, such as saddles, harness, & wallets for men, but the demand is so much less today that a harness shop would not be justified in most modern towns.

Almost every small colonial town had at least one or more millinery shop. They carried supplies for milady's hats, ribbons, feathers, lace, and veils along with hat pins and other items of jewelry. The attendant in the millinery shop or the owner or manager was expected to know the latest styles and the answers to the many many questions of the fair sex relative to dress, styles and related subjects. Hat shops did not disappear but the department store took over the business but it was no longer the center of advice and style that the small millinery shop was a century ago.

If we were to inquire about the location of the tannery we would immediately discover that most of the people we asked would not know what we were talking about. The local tannery does not exist as it once did in many small towns of the past century. The local tannery was a smelly mill where the bark of certain trees was treated to produce tannin, a product for treating skins of animals to make leather. Leather, of course, is still made and we have a variety of uses for leather but the process of tanning has been vastly improved and it too has moved into the larger cities where it enjoys a wider range of distribution.

To list all the changes in trades and skill in the past one hundred years would be almost impossible but we can assure our readers that for every trade that has gone out of use, two or three new ones have come in to keep pace with the progress that has been made in almost every field of endeavor.

WILD ANIMALS FOUND IN HOCKING COUNTY IN COLONIAL TIMES

The cougar or puma not numerous but was here in sufficient numbers to create a problem, especially for the early farmers of the area. This animal was a killer and he killed for the blood of the victim. It has been recorded several times in Hocking Co. that a single cougar would kill as many as a dozen or more sheep in a single night. When such an event occurred a hunting party would be organized and the killer would be hunted until he or she were found and destroyed. One farmer or a colonist might develop a special skill in tracking or killing cougar, thus build up a reputation for himself as a good hunter or tracker. When other neighborhoods had need for the hunter they would send for him and he would go and lead the party on the hunt.

The American black bear was found in Hocking Co. in considerable numbers. He was not considered a menace to livestock or dangerous to man but a problem for colonists in that he would raid cabins looking for food from time to time. When they were hungry they were a serious problem. They were hunted both for meat and fur.

The gray wolf was probably more of a menace than most any other animal found in the county. They destroyed farm animals and in cold winters when heavy snows were prevalent they grew very bold and destructive. Bounties were paid for their destruction and by this practice they were brought under control and were finally eliminated.

Deer were found in great numbers in the county during the early history and served a very useful purpose as an item of food. They were hunted so much without limits that by 1900 the deer population was totally destroyed. The state has purchased several tracts of land in not only Hocking County but in neighboring counties as well and then stocked with deer. In recent years the deer population has increased to the point that a short deer season is permitted for bucks only. Strict regulations are imposed which permit a growth of the deer population in most of the S. E. Counties. Deer in limited numbers are found in most counties but the more agricultural counties does not enjoy an open deer season.

Wild turkeys did exist in Hocking County, however, their number was somewhat limited. The heavy timbered area was thought to be a limiting factor as they prefer brush land. Wild turkey have been restocked on state lands and are now on the increase. Limited open season is now in effect in Hocking County and the results are gratifying.

Beaver were once a source of income in the county for their pelts or skins and they too were destroyed to the extent that a restocking program was necessary in order to get them started again. They responded to this replanting and have been found in many small streams. An open season was permitted in the county this year and a limited number were taken.

The citizens of the State of Ohio and the many rural populated counties have become interested in conservation to the point that they are willing to cooperate with their public officials to obtain and encourage the development of sanctuaries for birds and animals.

Many of the hills of Hocking County are being defoliated at an alarming rate at the present time. Most of this is being done on private lands. The pulp wood industry is particularly harmful because large and small trees are being taken leaving these hills open to erosion.

Strip mining is also a very destructive method of harvesting some of our natural resources.

Large earth moving machines are literally destroying large sections of the country side leaving it also open to the weathering and erosion and destroying the beauty of woodland and making it devoid of game and wild life.

Strict laws passed by legislatures, enforced by our officers, will be necessary to stop this wholesale destruction of plants and animals. "Lets save some of the beauty of nature, plants and animals, for our children".

A SUGGESTION

Pictures taken from the village and community through the years shows business places of the past and the present.

The committee who planned and arranged this booklet gave some thought and attention to those of the area whose thoughts can go back to the days of the past, when these pictures were more real than they now seem to be.

The pictures which will show it as it is today will be just as important as a talking point in just a few years, as the old pictures are to us now.

We sincerely hope that the young of today will keep these booklets so that when the areas' next birthday rolls around it will be easy to dig out the information needed.