



Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Spring 2021

Return of the Depot Bench

On July 28, 2018, an accident occurred in front of the Glendale Heritage Preservation museum. While parking in front of the museum, a driver failed to stop and crashed into the bench that sat in front of the museum, causing significant damage to it.



This railroad waiting room bench has a unique provenance. It was first used in the Southern Railway depot in Ludlow, Kentucky and then made its way to the Cincinnati Union Terminal. It was acquired by the Victoria Station restaurant in Sharonville, which later became the Track and Lantern. When the contents of the Track and Lantern were auctioned off, a Glendale resident came into possession of the bench and donated it to the GHP.

Benches of this type and size are rare railroad artifacts and are not easily replaced, so it was important to restore the bench. Allen Sper, a local custom carpenter specializing in historic restorations, was recommended. Allen prepared a quote and a claim was submitted to the insurance company. The claim was finally approved in May of 2019.

From the onset of the project, Allen indicated that the restoration might take a long time. There are two important considerations when doing this type of restoration. First, it is important to use the same materials as in the original construction. Secondly, the restoration should contain at least 50% of the original construction.

The first of these proved to be the most challenging. The bench was originally built from white oak. It was difficult to find a sufficient quantity of white oak not already cut to modern specifications, which would be inappropriate for a restoration. The search for white oak proved to be so difficult that consideration was given to using red oak. Then, as if by providence, Allen got a lead on some white oak found in an Indiana barn.

Once this white oak was acquired, putting the bench back together could finally commence, but first the wood would need to be cured. Then customized shaper blades to match the original milling profile would need to be designed and purchased. Trying to retain at least 50% of the original bench would play a role in deciding on what parts of the original bench to keep or which to replace. Each new piece had to be hand milled, fitted and glued. Several coats of high-quality, custom matched paint were then applied.

Finally, the bench restoration was complete. This past January 28th, Allen delivered the bench back to the museum, more beautiful than ever. Our thanks go out to Allen Sper for the fine job he did on this restoration and preserving this rare artifact.



So, the next time you're down in the Village Square have a seat on the bench, rest a bit and let your gaze wander on our beautiful Village Square, the heart of Glendale.

Submitted by Joe Dubinski

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Glendale on the Banks of the Ohio

Glendale's main drainage creek, Town Run, flows along the north side of Sharon Avenue from Springfield Pike, under Carruthers Park, past the water treatment facility, through the Princeton Viking sports facility and into Mill Creek. Can you imagine Town Run once flowed into the Ohio River? Admittedly, that would have been over a million years ago and assumes Town Run existed at the time, which it probably didn't. But, if true, that would have placed Glendale on the banks of the Ohio River. Could this have been possible?

The story starts with the realization that the Mill Creek couldn't have carved out the wide valley in which it flows; it isn't big and strong enough to do so. The valley is large enough to carry not only the Mill Creek, but also Reading Road, I-75, a railroad and, at one time, a canal. Only a much larger river could have carved out what we now know as the Mill Creek Valley.

Over the last two hundred years there have been several theories of how the valley was formed. Today, the commonly accepted theory is based on the prehistoric path of the Ohio River. It has been determined by geologists that the "Deep Stage Ohio River," as it is known, flowed northwards past the east side of Cincinnati until it reached Hamilton, and then turned south to follow the path of what is now known as the Great Miami River.

It was the erosive action of the Deep Stage Ohio River that created a mile-and-a-half-wide valley. At this time, where Glendale is now would have been on the banks of the Deep Stage Ohio River. It wasn't until more recent times, four hundred thousand years ago, that a glacier, known as the Illinoian glacier, came from the north and diverted the prehistoric Ohio River into the channel we now call the Ohio River Valley. Thus leaving behind the wide valley created by the Deep Stage Ohio River that we now call the Mill Creek Valley, even though it wasn't created by the Mill Creek.

So, strictly speaking, Town Run doesn't flow into the Ohio River, but it does flow into the valley created by the prehistoric Ohio River. Also, Glendale isn't on the banks of the Ohio River, but it was once on the banks of the the Deep Stage Ohio River.

Submitted by Martin Sinnott

Glendale: My Mayberry and Beyond - Life According to Hoyles

I am Carlton Hoyles and this is my story. I was born on March 18, 1948 to William and Carlee Hoyles. My focus is primarily on my childhood experiences growing up in Glendale. Looking back at that time period, we were able to roam around, "care free," to a lot of different places, "alone." Parents supported teachers and respected Law Enforcement. Neighbors knew neighbors. Doctors occasionally would do "house calls" and the milkman delivered milk in bottles to your door steps. Things have greatly changed since then.

During the "Depression Era," "Grand Paw," as Grandfather Florence Hoyles was affectionately known, purchased the home of John & Margaret Herman at 75 Coral Avenue in Glendale, The home was purchased for \$4,000 on May 29, 1929. It marked the first African American to own a home in Glendale. That became home for my grandparents (Florence and Irene) and their 12 children (4 boys and 8 girls), with my father (William Alexander Hoyles) being the oldest male.

While Dad only completed 8th grade at Eckstein (Eckstein School only went up to eighth grade), he started work at an early age. Dad purchased the house at 28 Coral Avenue, which was a four room home with a bathroom in the basement. That house still stands today and is occupied by my brother, Billy.

I miss the days of walking into Schottman's Hardware Store in the village, the great smell as you walk in and the fishing equipment. The pharmacy, around the corner, with the "nickel (phosphate) sodas" or the library, where Mom would take me against my will. The "changing of the seasons" which I'm more aware of now. Dr. Todd getting me up the street to Dr. Halbauer's dental office to "save my teeth" or "TuT" (Lindner) our policeman, passing out pretzels during Halloween. That was a more compassionate time period for me in Glendale and I am glad to have grown up there.

When I was about 7 or 8, my brother took me to the Glendale Athletic Field to meet Mrs. Cecilia DeGuere, founder of the Glendale Youth Sports. I was going to try out for summer baseball. Mrs.

DeGuere asked my brother "Can he play?" My brother replied "Yes!" So I made the Little League that day.

During the summer months, we would walk 1½ miles to St. Edmund's Pool on Chester Road to go swimming. At the time Black people were only allowed to swim Mondays from 1:00 to 3:00. Eventually, our parents petitioned the town council to allow us to swim "5 days a week". On the way home from swimming, if you had 25 cents, you could stop at the grocery store across the railroad tracks and buy a "pop (12 cents) and a small cherry pie (12 cents)" and get change back (1 cent)!!"

I attended Eckstein Elementary School from kindergarten through the 4th grade. In 1958, as a result of the Supreme Court Decision of 1954 (Brown vs Board of Education), the students and teachers from Eckstein were moved to Glendale, which was converted from a high school to an elementary school.

While Princeton Junior High was under construction, we had to attend 7th grade in Sharonville. Finally, we were the first 8th grade to attend the newly built junior high, across from the high school.

Princeton High School freshman year 1963-1964, I was placed in "college preparatory classes". Little did I know about placement, maybe it was because I had taken Latin as a 7th and 8th grader. I ran varsity track and was determined to get a "varsity letter as a freshman". I did.



By senior year I had sustained many sports related injuries and at the "Awards Banquet" I received the "Outstanding Injury Award" from Dr. Todd. He later nominated me for induction into the "Princeton Hall of Fame". I was inducted in 2019.

Around February, 1967, Coach Truce, University of Cincinnati Head Track Coach came to my home for me to sign a "Conference Letter of Intent." I was admitted to Business College at the University of Cincinnati and majored in Business Administration. After graduation, I moved to Evanston, Illinois where I obtained a job at Allstate Insurance Co. Later I moved to Merrillville, Indiana, where I met my wife, Tracey. We bought a home and had two kids and life really began for me.

This extract is taken from the book of the same title by Carlton G. Hoyles. The complete book is available on GlendaleHeritage.org under the tab "Memories".



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Beyond the Depot

Whether you are missing the current exhibition “Women of Glendale” or items from the Black Squirrel Gift Shop while the depot is closed, you can now find them online at GlendaleHeritage.org. Visit “Exhibits” or “Shop” on the top of Glendale Heritage’s home page to view them.

But that is not all that is new on the Glendale Heritage website. You can now find a tour of the thirteen remaining squirrels from the 2005 Sesquicentennial Squirrely Gig. Visit “Tour” to find where they are located. They join the online tour of Glendale’s historic houses, another recent addition to the website.



“Memories” is another new addition to the Glendale Heritage website. Here you will find a memoir written by Carlton G. Hoyles who grew up in Glendale during the 1950s and 60s on Coral Avenue. His memoir describes the experiences of an African American family in “My Mayberry and Beyond; Life According to Hoyles.”

Over 100 historic houses with plaques were listed on the Glendale Heritage website in the past year. If you have ever thought about having a plaque to commemorate the historic significance of your house, you will find all you need by visiting “House Plaques” on the Glendale Heritage website.

If you are interested in researching Glendale history, you will find a new database of Glendale Heritage Preservation’s archive of maps, photos, objects and more by visiting “Research” on the Glendale Heritage website. You can also view a recent video of the history of Glendale on the website’s home page. Look for “Historic Glendale: The Living Village”.

Glendale Heritage Preservation has truly extended beyond the depot and into the community. You can now visit the depot online and at your convenience. If you would like to see Glendale Heritage Preservation continue its work, please consider joining. Visit GlendaleHeritage.org and go to “Join” to view membership details. You can now join and pay your membership dues online.