



# Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Winter 2021 - 2022

## Circus Train Retires To Florida

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is but a memory now. It pulled up its tent in 2017. One of those memories is the circus train that used to transport the entire show of performers and animals from one city to another. This circus train photo was taken by R.M. Leach in 1987, as it passed through Glendale, at the former Albion Avenue crossing, on its way south.



The circus train could be up to a mile long, made up of passenger cars, stock cars and flat cars. The train was inaugurated by the Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1872 and ran until the very end in 2017. The train's most famous passenger was probably Jumbo the elephant, who unfortunately was hit and killed by another train as he was being loaded into one of the stock cars, back in 1885.

The 85-foot-long passenger cars were manufactured by the Pullman Company of Chicago. When the circus closed, the passenger cars were either auctioned or scrapped. One car in particular, named Short Leaf Pine, found a home on a siding at the Florida Railroad Museum in Parrish, Florida. This was a familiar home, of sorts, because the

circus wintered in Florida, just like some of Glendale's residents.

Venice, Florida, was the circus's winter home from 1960 to 1991. The memory of this period has been curated by the Venice Area Historical Society, which has its headquarters in the city's historic 1927 railroad depot. The restoration of the Venice depot was led by former Glendale resident Jack Bauer, after he had successfully led the restoration of Glendale's depot. In 2019, the Society set out to bring a circus car to their depot.



They acquired Short Leaf Pine, in a rather dilapidated state, and have now renovated it to become an exhibit in the Society's depot museum, a fitting retirement home for the Short Leaf Pine passenger car.



*Submitted by Martin Sinnott*

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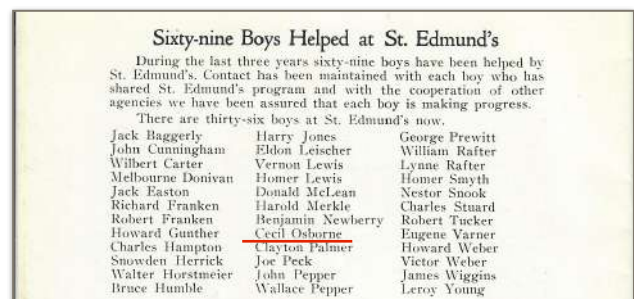
## Searching for a Father's Childhood Home

Sisters Pamela and Paulette, from Montfort Heights and Fairfield, visited Glendale Heritage Preservation's archives to find out whether their father, whom they thought lived in a Glendale boys home, actually lived at St. Edmund's home for boys.



St. Edmund's was a home for boys from 1906 to 1934. It was run by the Sisters of the Transfiguration. Situated on Chester Road, the home housed boys who were orphaned or had parents unable to raise them. Later, the home became a conference center, but in 1994 the land was sold for redevelopment.

Pamela and Paulette were met at the depot by Joanne Goode, Glendale Heritage Preservation's archivist. Joanne pulled the archive box labelled St. Edmund's, and the sisters went to work searching through the records in the box. Eventually, they came across a small booklet called "BOYS...and the Business of Life" published by St. Edmund's in 1929. Leafing through it they found their father's name, Cecil Osbourne, in a list of 36 boys currently at St. Edmunds.



Joanne says that this was a very emotional moment for everyone. It was like finding a needle in a haystack. The sisters had discovered a missing part of their family's heritage thanks to one of the many contributions to the Glendale Heritage Preservation's archives.

*Submitted by Martin Sinnott & Joanne Goode*

## Plaques Celebrate Clipson's Office

This past October 10<sup>th</sup>, family and friends of Glendale architect Addison Clipson, along with representatives from the Glendale Heritage Preservation, gathered in front of 280 East Sharon Ave. at the corner of Greenville Avenue to unveil two plaques that were installed on the building.

The first is a historic plaque, requested by Addison, to indicate when the building was built and by whom it was built. More about that later.

When Addison requested a plaque for the building, the Glendale Heritage Preservation thought it was appropriate to recognize Addison's contributions to the architecture of the village by installing an additional plaque commemorating this building as his office from 1980 until his retirement in 2020.



Addison's contributions to the village are many. Since 1971, Addison worked on 63 projects in the village. He has touched many of our iconic structures, including the First Presbyterian Church, the Police Station, the Glendale Lyceum, the Iron Horse Inn, now the Meritage Restaurant, the Cincinnati, Hamilton &

Dayton Depot, now the Glendale Heritage Preservation Museum, the Harry Whiting Brown Pavilion, and most recently the new fire station at Town Hall.

Now about the history of this building. In 1860, this property was purchased by John Walsh. He is listed in the 1860 census as a merchant. All indications are that there was a building on this corner at that time from which John Walsh operated a store and possibly a saloon, but it was not the one that stands there today. In 1868, John Walsh replaced the building on this corner with the current one. In a

book titled *The Suburbs of Cincinnati, Sketches, Historical and Descriptive* by Sidney D Maxwell published in 1870, Maxwell states "On the same avenue, corner of Greenville, John Walsh, during the year 1868, erected a two-story building ... adapted to business purposes." In



1873, John Walsh apparently ran into financial difficulties. In that year, he took out mortgages totaling the approximate value of his real estate. In August of 1874, this building was sold at auction to John Heher. The Heher family operated a store at this location for many years. A picture in the archives of the Glendale Heritage Preservation shows the Heher Store with a horse-drawn wagon in front. There might also have been a saloon at this location as the Fairmount Brewing Company took out a two-year lease in 1904. After the Heher's sold the building, it continued to be used for commercial purposes. There is also a photo in the archives of the Glendale Heritage Preservation taken in 1942 showing the building being used as a café.



In addition to this building, two other houses have had plaques installed this past year. The house at 65 Lake Avenue was built in 1879 and was originally a school for Glendale's African American children. The other house located at 1195 Congress Avenue was built in 1891 and was originally the home of Thomas and Maggie Ryan. Maggie Ryan lived in this house until 1965, a total of seventy-four years. There are three other plaque requests currently being researched.

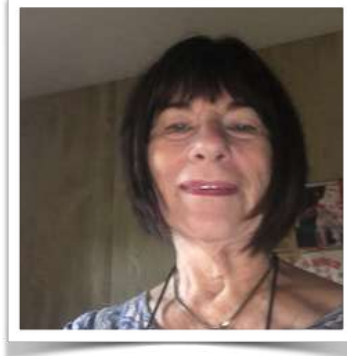
To find out about getting research done on your home, you can download a form from the Glendale Heritage Preservation website or visit the museum on Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

*Submitted by Joe Dubinski*

## Sharon Bortrager, New Trustee

I have lived with my husband in Glendale for 49 years. After we were married, Paul wanted to live in Glendale. We found a small house with a big yard and have enjoyed enlarging our house, gardening and putting in flowers wherever we could. We brought up our two sons here and have enjoyed volunteering early on with cub scouts and school activities.

I went to Miami University from Cleveland and then to University of Cincinnati for my masters. I taught in the Princeton and Reading schools, and for the Hamilton County Office of Education. I taught reading and gifted children, and sat on many committees.



After 25 years, I retired but went back to school to become a travel agent for prestige travel. Traveling was a passion for us so becoming a travel agent fit the bill.

After retirement, I decided to volunteer in Glendale. I joined Glendale Heritage Preservation, the Glendale Community Library, and Centennial Garden Club. I also volunteer at West Chester Hospital.

I have watched Glendale evolve over the years and hope to keep Glendale Heritage Preservation active for all members of the community. I thank Glendale Heritage Preservation for asking me to join them and help make decisions based on the community needs. It is a wonderful organization to help keep Glendale's heritage active and alive.

## Steve Bennett, New Trustee

I was raised in the quaint village of Martock, in rural Somerset, England. My childhood was spent around dairy farms, lush green fields, and peaceful rivers. We saw the cows twice a day as they plodded past to be milked, smelled bread being baked from the baker down the street, heard the whine of the sawmill and the church bells as they practiced every Tuesday night.

I left England at 17 to join an organization promoting wholesome life values using drama and workshops in schools, churches, and prisons. I traveled throughout Great Britain, Ireland and Scandinavia eventually coming to the United States. Settling in Cleveland, Ohio, I went through seminary and served as youth/children's pastor for many years. I continued to travel as opportunities allowed experiencing many different countries and cultures, helping develop orphanages, medical missions, and schools.



In 2008, I began a consulting business, partnering with entrepreneurs helping their business dreams and ideas. I ended up becoming a partner in one of these business ventures and later became the sole owner.

A few years ago, my in-laws relocated to Glendale. We fell in love with the village recognizing the unique value, quiet beauty and reminding me of my childhood home. The winding walking paths through picturesque neighborhoods, abundant wildlife and welcoming community are a dream come true for us. My wife and I are excited to continue getting involved in our community.

The village life is the life for us. Our place of belonging, a sanctuary and haven. Our Home.