

1995 - 1996 - 1998
HAT - REALITY

SCRAP BOOK

HIRT ANNIVERSARY SONG, 1966
tune - "Green, Green"

Today we celebrate with pride,
Our "Diamond Jubilee"
God Bless us all and keep us too,
In perfect harmony.

Chorus: Hirt, Hirt, Hirt, we say,
Is a name that's here to stay,
Hirt, Hirt, now sing it loud
On our "Anni-ver-s-ary Day".

Many years ago, far over the sea,
Lived a man in Old Stille, (ee).
He decided to roam, and left his home
For a brand new coun-t-ry (ee).

He settled here and he settled there,
Then back across the sea,
Until he found his stamping ground,
Right here in this count-y (ee).

Now when Casper Hirt turned 34
He struck a lucky day.
He took a bride named Fannie Vogt
In Phil-s-del-phi-a.

Good fortune came, success as well
As you no doubt can see,
Eight sons, one daughter were born to them
To start the family tree.

Of that family of 9 we remember these 6
Brother Charles, Sam, Frank, Ed and Lew,
And in the west Lizzie made her nest
And raised her fam-i-ly, too.

Now once a year we gather here,
To keep up with "Our Clan".
To greet the new - respect the few
Who have gone to the "Promised Land".

To all who came to celebrate,
Our Diamond Jubilee,
Good health, good luck, God Bless us all
Until Eternity.

Grace Hirt Zilles
Ruth Hirt Peffly

Benjamin Hirt

Every year, Benjamin "Ben" Hirt becomes a zookeeper for a day.

Hirt, a Ross High senior, has made it a tradition to volunteer as an exhibitor at the School of Hope's Field Day. He becomes a zookeeper of goats, rabbits, calves and chickens for that event.

"I have lots of animals I take care of. I take my little zoo and go out there," Hirt said.

4-H activities include working in junior leadership functions and taking on summer camp counseling jobs.

He also has been reporter for FFA. One of his community service projects through FFA was building dog-houses for the animal shelter in Ottawa County.

Although he enjoys agriculture-related projects, Hirt plans to become a teacher.

"I still like the benefits of living on a farm, but I think I need a job that provides a little more money," he said.

And, he adds, "I've had lots of good teachers."

He plans to study education at Capital University, where two relatives have previously attended college. Hirt is also president of Future Teachers of America. His favorite subjects are French and science.

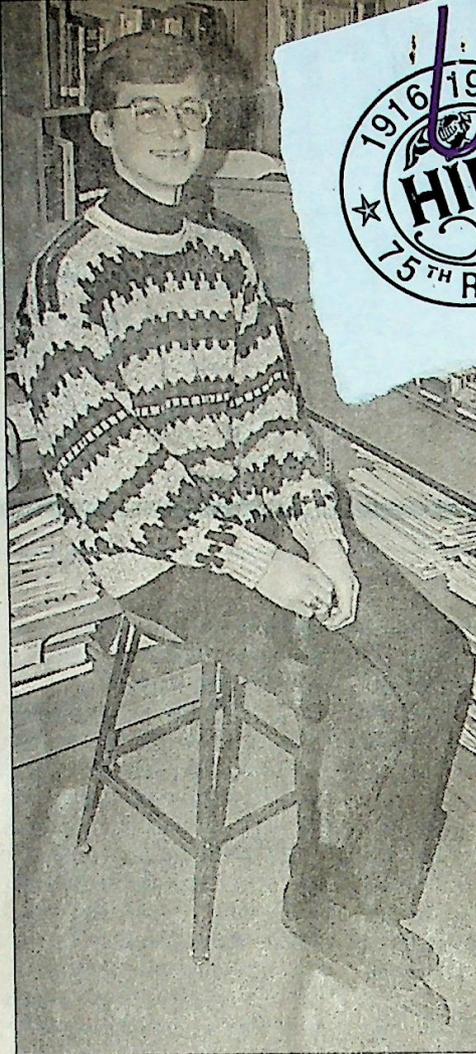
To get an idea of his future career, Hirt has spent some time observing elementary teachers.

In the meantime, Ross High drama club and related activities are taking up much of his free time. He serves as activities coordinator for the club and has performed in "Bye, Bye Birdie" and "A Christmas Carol." He also is in the upcoming production of "Guys and Dolls."

Also at school, Hirt belongs to Science Club, Foreign Language Club, American Field Service and National Honor Society. He also has volunteered for two years at the school library.

"Ben is one who will try anything, simply because he is interested in everything," his French teacher, Judi Smith, said.

In the community, Hirt sings in the church choir at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Vickery.



BIOGRAPHY ...

Benjamin A. Hirt

- BENJAMIN A. HIRT
Age: 17
Parents: John and Deborah Hirt, 1543 Sandusky County Road 226.
School: Ross High.
Activities:
- Volunteer at School of Hope.
 - Active in school musicals and dramas.
 - President of Future Teachers of America.
 - 4-H activities and camp counselor.
 - Enjoys woodworking and cooking.

Darcy Lee Kistler

Jan. 17, 1955 — Feb. 28, 1995

Darcy Lee Kistler, 40, of Sandusky County Road 268, Vickery, died Tuesday at home.

She was born in Sandusky to Dowell and Donna (Giedeman) Clouse and attended Margaretta schools. She married Charles Kistler on June 23, 1972, and he survives.

Mrs. Kistler worked as a laborer at Great Lakes Plastics in Fremont.

Surviving are her parents of Vickery; son John Kistler of the U.S. Marine Corps; daughter Kristy Kistler of Vickery; sisters Debra Greene of Vickery and Darlene Nunley of Fremont; and brother Derek Clouse of Vickery. Brother Dennis Clouse is deceased.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday at Mitchell-Auxter Funeral Home in Clyde with burial at Parkhurst Cemetery in Clyde.

Visitation will be 7 to 9 p.m. today and 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made in care of the family.

Lester Kistler

Aug. 3, 1916 — March 4, 1995

Lester "Butch" Kistler, 78, of Fremont, died Saturday afternoon at Parkview Care Center.

He was born in Riley Township to Charles F. and Marie (Hirt) Kistler and was a 1934 graduate of Ross High School.

Mr. Kistler worked at the former Herbrand Corp. before moving to Washington, D.C., where he worked for the government. He served with the Merchant Marines as a second engineer during World War II and then moved to California and lived there for 45 years, returning to Fremont in 1988.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church.

Surviving are sisters Helen Beier of Fremont and Mary Hutchinson of Perrysburg, and several nieces and nephews. His parents, sister Ruth, and brothers Walter and William Kistler are deceased.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Nopper-Karlovetz Mortuary where visitation will be 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. today and one hour before the services on Tuesday.

Burial will be at Oakwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the National Parkinson's Foundation or the church.

1995

Castalia Banking's student of month

CASTALIA — Jennifer Hirt was selected as the Student of the Month for Castalia Banking Company. Jennifer will receive a \$50 savings bond from the Castalia Banking Company and will be considered for a scholarship at the end of the school year.

Jennifer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Hirt and a senior at Margaretta High School. She has been a member of the National Honor Society for the last two years and on the Honor Roll for the past four years.

Jennifer was captain of the cheerleading squad for the last two years and has been a cheerleader for four years.

She belongs to the Varsity



Jennifer Hirt

"M" Club, Foreign Language Club, and Drama Club. Jennifer was a member of the marching and concert band, and a teacher aide for three years. Jennifer was Exchange Student of the Month for V.F.W.



Thomas Matthew Glick

Matt & Stacy Glick
 Green Springs
 Sept. 17, 1994



Amber Elizabeth Poole

Todd & Kellie Poole
 Fremont
 Oct. 4, 1994



Jennifer Lynn Hirt, Margaretta High School, daughter of William and Terrie Hirt, 106 E. Miami Trail, Sandusky, is a member of National Honor Society (two years); Foreign Language Club (four years); band (one year); Drama Club (one year); and Varsity "M" Club (three years). She was a cheerleader (four years), captain junior and senior. She participated in Clothe-A-Child, received Citizenship award and Pre Calculus award, and was a teacher aide and student tutor.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FREMONT ROSS basketball players Michele Smith (left), Emily Dowell (center) and Holly Pelfrey (right) were in action during the Little Giants' fourth-quarter comeback against Toledo Central Catholic in a Division

I district tournament game at Springfield High School in Holland Thursday night. At right, Cari Ritzman of Ross saves the ball from going out of bounds during the first half. The Little Giants advanced to the district finals.

Gillmor pays tribute to 'Smoky'

T-shirts to be sold at fair to fund Huss Foundation

By BRIAN SPIESS
Staff writer

Phil Huss was better known as Smoky the Clown to Fremont residents and — just recently — the United States Congress.

Rep. Paul Gillmor, R-Old Fort, read a tribute to Huss in Washington after speaking with Phil's widow Martha. The two discussed the Phil Huss Foundation, established after his death in 1993.

The foundation has raised about \$9,000, according to fund organizer Kenn Bowers. Sandusky County Fair T-shirts will be sold at the fair, a fund raiser Bowers said raised \$2,000 in 1994.

The money is expected to be used to pay for a statue of Huss, which would possibly be placed in the fairgrounds.

"I rise today to pay tribute to an old friend and outstanding citizen of Ohio who is no longer with us," Gillmor said in his tribute. "Philip Huss of Fremont, Ohio, was in many ways the epitome of a model citizen and patriot."

A copy of the tribute was sent to Martha Huss last week.

"It was a wonderful, wonderful surprise," she said. "I think it's a great honor."

Gillmor was 8- or 9-years-old when he first met Huss.

"He was an amateur boxer, fighting in Tiffin," Gillmor said of Huss, who boxed as a member of the U.S. Navy before joining the Fremont

Police Department.

"Despite his successful career with the Police Department, Phil will always be remembered as Smoky," Gillmor said.

According to the tribute, Huss began clowning in 1954.

"In his rag-tag clown outfit and scooter, he brought countless smiles to children, parents and grandparents over the next 40 years," Gillmor said.

"... Philip Huss distinguished himself as a reliable and dedicated public servant and a genuine role model in his private life. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to Phil's wife Martha, and in joining the community of Fremont in remembering and celebrating Philip's accomplishments. "We will always miss him."

John S. Huss

March 31, 1924 — May 26, 1995

John S. Huss, 71, Gail Lane, Tiffin, formerly of Fremont, died Friday at Mercy Hospital in Tiffin.

He was born in Sandusky County to Harry B. and Anna (Hirt) Huss. He married Mildred (Heilman) Huss on April 7, 1981, in Tiffin and she survives.

Mr. Huss was a heavy equipment operating engineer, retiring in 1983. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a member of the Fremont



HUSS

VFW, Post 2947, Fremont Moose, Tiffin Eagles, Tiffin Am. Vets and Tiffin Disabled American Veterans, Tiffin American Legion, Elks Club and Army-Navy Club in Largo, Fla. He was past commander of Fremont Yacht Club.

Surviving are step-daughters Suzanne Bulkowski of Largo, Fla., Sandra Maryanoff of Coral Springs, Fla., and Sherry Bentz of Tiffin; daughters Tina Huss of Tiffin and Sharon Huss of Naples, Fla.; four grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded by his parents, brothers William and Philip Huss, and sister Helen Babione.

Services will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Wonderly-Horvath Funeral Home.

Military services will be at Oakwood Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Fremont VFW, Post 2947.

BLOODMOBILE: The American Red Cross bloodmobile at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Vickery collected 41 units. The following people were recognized at this collection: twenty gallon-Merle Hirt

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Casey and Dena Schepflin won their fourth Sandusky Invitational tennis doubles title Saturday as Fremont Ross on the tourney with a maximum 150 points.

The Schepflin cousins defeated Julie Myers and Jackie Popvic of Norwalk in the finals 6-



C. SCHEPFLIN



D. SCHEPFLIN

Ross falls in district finals

"DON'T FORGET"

mark your calendars

*79th
Hirt Reunion
Sunday, July 23
1995
more information
to follow*

Century mark strikes again

News-Messenger reports

Cousins Casey Schepflin and Dena Schepflin won their 100th match as teammates at Fremont Ross, and Andi Andrews won the clinching match for the Little Giants in a 3-2 victory over Ottawa Hills.

The Schepflins defeated Rachel Bovino and Meredith Finley 6-2-6-2 on the second doubles court. They are now 100-5 in their career.

Ross coach Sue Badertscher said all five losses came in tournament play.



C. SCHEPFLIN



D. SCHLEPFLIN



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

LISA OPRIE (32) and Michele Smith (right) of Fremont Ross battle for a loose ball with Southview's Stephanie

Raszka during Saturday night's district championship game at Springfield High School.

Sandusky County Fair



NANCY ATKINSON
Reserve champion
Open Class Barrow
carcass



SHARON ATKINSON
Grand Champion
Open Class Barrow
carcass



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrisor

DR. LAURA HIRT of Paw Patch Veterinarian Services, Clyde, tries to talk to students about veterinary medicine as her macaw "Rico" playfully bites her lip. Dr. Hirt was one of 14 women speaking at Green Springs Elementary Friday as part of Women in Science Day.

Great Lakes League champions

SOFTBALL



Fremont Ross won its second consecutive Great Lakes League softball championship and also made its second trip to the Division I regional tournament. Members of the team are, front row, left to right: Jamie Hinkle, Jenny Swint, Ragan Rusch, Dawn Zerman, Donna Steinberger, Hol-

ly Pelfrey, Nikki Pelfrey; Back row: Coach Cheryl Schell, April Brenamen, Erin Lease, Michelle Smith, Emily Dowell, Jessica Rollins, Casey Schepflin, assistant coach Mike Gilbert and scorekeeper/manager Nick Cleveland. The team is 20-3 and 11-0 in the GLL.

June 30 — Lisa and Kevin Diekman, 613 S. Main St., Gibsonburg, a 6-pound, 3-ounce daughter, Brooke Nicole, at 4:39 p.m. She was 18³/₄ inches long. Local grandparents are Carroll and Connie Diekman of Lindsay and David and Cindy Wellington of Fremont.

On campus

Several area students received degrees at Summer Quarter commencement exercises in August. Christopher Louis Hirt, bachelor of science in pharmacy.

Oct. 2 — Jackie and Brian Mowry, 2844 Sandusky County Road 1, Burgoon, a 9-pound, 10-ounce daughter, Morgan Elizabeth, at 5:57 a.m. She was 21 inches long. Local grandparents are Jim and Marg Schwartz of Lindsey and Pat and Chuck Mowry of Fremont. Great-grandmothers are Rosemary Schwartz, Lucille Atkinson and Nina Overmyer, all of Fremont.

Oct. 6 — Michelle and Brady Glick, of Ottawa, Ohio, a 7-pound, 1-ounce daughter, Hallie Michelle, at 12:08 p.m. at Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay. Local grandparents are Mike and Carol Glick of Green Springs and great-grandmother Mrs. Russell Hirt of Fremont.



Casper Hirt

Casper & Verena Hirt 79th Annual Reunion Sunday, July 23, 1995



Verena Hirt

Dear Hirts!

Time again for the Hirt families to gather and meet their kin and enjoy another reunion. We all have good thoughts from the past big reunions, so the committee is working hard to have another good one. Expect to see you all again this year.

Same place as last year. Rendezvous Lodge at the F.O.R.T. in Fremont, 1313 Tiffin Road, behind the Thornwood Golf Course. The day will start with a GOLF SCRAMBLE at 9:00 a.m., followed by a potluck at noon, business meeting and program. Other activities will be putt-putt golf, volleyball, swimming (\$2.00 children, \$2.50 adults), badmitten and horse shoes with games for the kids.

WHITE ELEPHANT & CRAFT AUCTION (please wrap and mark gifts: man, lady, or child)

50/50 drawing during the meeting

Barbecue at 5:00 p.m. with hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream for all.

Due this year will be \$4.00 per family.

SEE YOU ALL ON THE 23RD OF JULY FOR A DAY OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

Gary HIRT
William Schepflin, President
Don Gary Hirt, Vice President
Jeannette Hirt, Sec./Treas.

FOR ALL GOLFERS

Return to: Dick Schepflin
1929 Riverbend Pkwy.
Fremont, Ohio 43420

before July 15th, or call 334-3288

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Team: _____

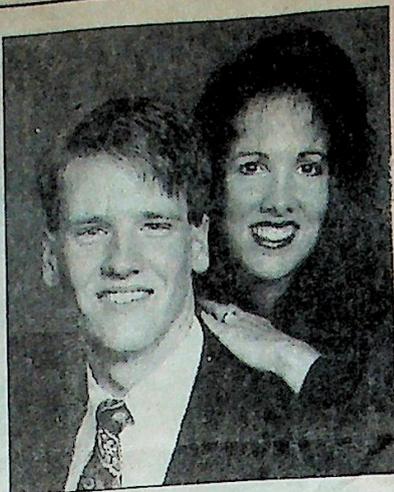
Burkett-Meek

Norman and Antonia La Verne Burkett, Melbourne, Fla., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Rojo Burkett to Clay Linford Meek.

Meek is the son of Judy Meek of Paris, Tenn., and Gary Glenn Meek of McKenzie, Tenn. He is the grandson of Gladys Brugger of Vickery.

The bride-elect is a 1986 graduate of Melbourne High School and 1990 graduate of Florida State with a degree in criminology, and 1991 graduate of Florida State with a master's degree in criminology, and a 1994 graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, with a Doctor of Juris Prudence. She is an assistant State Attorney in the office of the 7th Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Her fiancé is a 1988 graduate of McKenzie, Tenn., High School and a 1991 graduate of Bethel College, McKenzie, Tenn., with a bachelor of science degree (magna cum laude), and a 1994 graduate of Mississippi College



CLAY LINFORD MEEK and JENNIFER ROJO BURKETT

School of Law, with a Doctor of Juris prudence Degree. He is employed as an associate at the law firm of Monoco, Smith, Hood, Perkins, Loucks, & Strickland in Daytona Beach, Fla.

They will be married at 4 p.m. Aug. 12 in Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Indialantic, Fla.

Burkett-Meek

Jennifer Rojo Burkett and Clay Linford Meek were married at 4 p.m. Aug. 12 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Indialantic, Fla., by the Rev. Roy H. McCormick.

The bride is the daughter of Norman and Antonia Burkett of Satellite Beach, Fla.

The groom's parents are Judy Marie Meek of Paris, Tenn., and Gary Meek of McKenzie, Tenn.

Maids of honor were Rachel Hess and Ivonne Gonzalez, friends of the bride.

Bridesmaids were Jessica Bittle, Jennifer Hill and William Lyon, all friends of the couple.

Best man was Richard Smith-Monahan, friend of the groom.

Groomsmen were David Hamilton, Jason Cobb and Connie Smith-Monahan.

Ushers were Derrick and Norman Burkett, brothers of the bride, and Kevin Caudell, friend of the couple.

The reception took place at the Officer's Club, Patrick AFB, Fla.

They honeymooned with a trip to the Bahamas on the Carnival Cruise Line.

The bride is a graduate of Florida State University with a



JENNIFER (BURKETT) and CLAY MEEK

bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree; and the Mississippi College School of Law with her law degree.

The groom is a graduate of Bethel College, McKenzie, Tenn. with a bachelor of science degree and the Mississippi College School of Law with his law degree.

Red Cross honors its top volunteers

News-Messenger reports

The American Red Cross, Sandusky County Chapter, this week honored Jeanette Hirt of Fremont and Bud Rohtert of Woodville as Volunteers of the year.

The chapter honored outstanding volunteers and elected new members of the board of directors Tuesday during the annual meeting at First United Methodist Church in Clyde.

Hirt and Rohtert were honored for their many hours and years of service to the organization that helps people prevent, prepare for, and cope with emergencies.

Others honored were 20-gallon blood donors, outgoing Chapter



BUD ROHTERT



JEANETTE HIRT

Chairman Jeff Geary and those volunteers in attendance who have volunteered at least 100 hours for the Red Cross.

Hirt has been active in the Sandusky County Red Cross blood program since retiring from Grace Church in 1988.

by her sister-in-law, Irene Brindley, to co-coordinate the blood program, Hirt has been instrumental in promoting and organizing bloodmobiles in Sandusky County. Blood collections have increased regularly due to their efforts.

Hirt herself has donated more than 16½ gallons of blood. Jeanette and her husband of 49 years, Howard, live in Fremont.

Smith leads Ross to win over Whitmer

Volleyball Roundup

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross stumbled in the second game but defeated Toledo Whitmer in a Great Lakes League match Tuesday night.

The Little Giants won the first game 15-10, Whitmer took the second 15-6 and Ross won the third 15-13.

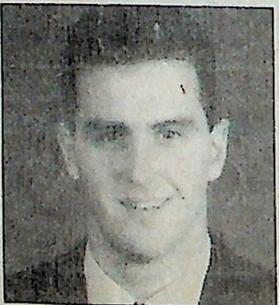
Michele Smith served nine points, had five kills and made seven blocks to lead the Little Giants (3-0, 2-0).

Amber Brenamen had seven points, six kills and 15 assists.

Cari Ritzman was 13-of-15 serve reception and had three digs, while Jodi Fick had seven kills.



SMITH

R CONGRATULATIONS
Chris HIRT
"Our PHARMACIST"

Love, Dad & Mom, Eric & wife to be, Denise

ROSS Thiessen rushes for 168 yards, TD



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

FREMONT ROSS tailback Derek Thiessen runs past the Bedford Mules defense and turns up field on his 64-yard touchdown run Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Ross won its Great Lakes League opener 28-12.

SYLVANIA — The game was nearly over before it got started. By the end of the first quarter, there was no doubt about the outcome.

Derek Thiessen ran 59 yards for a score on the second play and scored twice more in the first quarter as Fremont Ross blanked Northview 33-0 in a Great Lakes League game Friday night.

The Ross junior had 161 yards on eight first-quarter carries and finished with 183 on 17 first-half attempts.



THIESSEN

On the drive, Thiessen went over 1,000 yards on a 36-yard run to the 7.

Thiessen summed up the Ross effort when he was asked who had the biggest block on the run that put him over 1,000.

"All of them," he said.

It was that type of effort for the Little Giants.

Wisbon, former UT football player, was a 'natural' in sales

BY MARK ZABORNEY
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Ben Wisbon, former vice president of an audio-visual equipment company who in retirement was a substitute teacher, died of heart failure Sunday in his West Toledo home. He was 63.

From the late 1950s through about 1964, Mr. Wisbon was a history teacher for the Danbury Local Schools in Lakeside, where he coached high school football, basketball, and track.

"He always liked working with kids," his son, Mark, said.

After he left full-time teaching, Mr. Wisbon worked as a salesman for a company that sold audio-video equipment to schools and coaches. In the late 1960s, he and several other men started an audio-visual equipment sales company, Applied Audio Visuals. He retired as vice president of sales in 1986.

"He was a very people-oriented person," his son said. "Sales just came naturally to him, and the field he had was back to the schools. A lot of people remembered him. He was very successful with the sales."

"He was a big guy and had a big voice. To look at him was kind of intimidating, but as soon as he started to talk, he set you at ease."

In retirement, he returned to the classroom to substitute teach in the Toledo Public Schools. His assignments ranged from primary-grade

physical education to high school classes.

"He always kept his teaching certificate updated," his son said.

Mr. Wisbon was born in Fremont, but grew up in Toledo. He was a graduate of Scott High School and played football on the school's city championship team, said Sonny Smith, who played for rival Woodward.

Mr. Wisbon, a graduate of the University of Toledo, was a starting tackle and played defensive and offensive end for the Rockets.

"He was a very tough football player," recalled Mr. Smith, a UT teammate who roomed with Mr. Wisbon during road trips.

A lifelong student of history and geography, Mr. Wisbon's hobby was travel. With little fuss, he'd get in his car and drive to visit his son, Mark, in New Mexico, or his son, Joel, and daughter, Wendy, in Los Angeles.

"He'd drive to New Mexico like you would drive to the corner for groceries," Mark said. "It was very relaxing for him to drive, and it was a chance for him to think. The time was of little consequence."

Golf outings also were favorite pastimes in later years.

Also surviving are his brothers, Brian, James, Daniel, and Michael, and two grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 10:30 this morning in the Foth-Dorf-meyer Mortuary.

Ben Wisbon

Mr. Ben Wisbon passed away in his sleep early Sunday morning. A graduate of the University of Toledo in 1957 where Ben was a member of the UT Football Team. Ben went on to teach school with Danberry Township where he also coached the football, basketball and track programs at Lakeside High School. Ben was employed in Toledo as Vice President of Sales for Applied Audio Visuals until retirement in 1986. In retirement, he worked with the Toledo Board of Education as a part time teacher. Ben was a member of the sons of the AM Vets #52.

Ben is survived by his brothers, Brian, James, Daniel, and Michael; sisters, Gene Pinney and Sally O'Connor; children, Mark, Wendy and Joel; as well as 2 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends may call at the Foth-Dorf-meyer Mortuary, 3815 Sylvania Ave. at Woodley Rd. (between Monroe St. and Talmadge Rd.) Tuesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. where Funeral Services will be held Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.



THIESSEN

Special guests attend Hirt reunion

The 79th annual family reunion of the descendants of Casper and Verena Hirt was held Sunday, July 23, at the Rendezvous Lodge in Fremont with 220 members and friends attending.

The day started with a golf scramble at 9 a.m. with 40 golfers participating. Top winners were Mark Hirt, Matt Hirt, Bruce W. Hirt, Daryol Lee, Tom Love and John Hemmer.

A huge potluck dinner was enjoyed at noon and was followed by the program and business meeting with Gary Hirt presiding.

Nine marriages were reported, as well as two births and five deaths, since last reunion. Remembered with a moment of silence were Jessie Hirt, Allen Hemmer, Darcy Kistler, Lester Kistler and John Huss.

The youngest baby present, Celeste Nicole, daughter of Susan and Jeff Wrighting, was given the baby bank.

Four of the older generation

were present and remembered with corsages. They are Ruth Peffly, Grace Zilles, Marian Diedrich and Leta Bauman, from Walnut Creek, California. Helen Hiebel was not present, but was remembered.

Special gifts were presented to Max Baumann, Deb Hirt, Ryan and Aaron Burk, Vi Schepflin and Mark Hirt.

Leta Baumann, the eldest member present, invited all to come to Walnut Creek, Calif., March 25, 1996, to help celebrate her 90th birthday anniversary.

Election of officers was held with Don Hirt elected president, Jim Lagrou vice president and Jeanette Hirt secretary-treasurer.

A white elephant and craft auction was held with John Hirt as auctioneer.

The highlight of the gathering was the arrival of relatives Arnold and Teresa Lehner and Dr. Max Baumann of Stille, Switzerland.

Dr. Baumann has been doing more research of the Hirt history at Hayes Museum, Birchard Library and Oakwood Cemetery the past 11 weeks while staying with Marsha and Bruce N. Hirt.

The Swiss group presented the Hirt family with a huge picture of an aerial view of Stille, home of Casper Hirt.

The Fremont Hirts and Mayor Terry Overmyer then presented Arnold Lehner, who is the "Burger Meister" (mayor) of Stille, with a gift box of food products from Sandusky County and the Key to the City of Fremont.

The afternoon was spent with swimming, volleyball, horseshoes and catching up on news of various kinfolks. An evening barbecue was enjoyed, closing the happy gathering.

Since Rendezvous Lodge will not be available next year, place and date for the 1996 reunion will be announced at a later date.

Casey Renee Schepflin.

Schepflin is the daughter of Larry and Ginny Schepflin, 204 Norbert Drive. She is a senior majoring in college prep.

She is on the honor roll, won state honors in tennis, is on the Great Lakes League 1st Team Tennis, is All Academic, placed second in state as team, won the co-captains award and coach's award.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, is an office worker, belongs to TAG/HUDDLE, plays tennis and softball and does basketball stats.

Her hobbies include basketball stats, tennis, softball, having fun with her friends, working with the fifth grade class at Otis and teaching tennis.

She plans to attend Bowling Green State University and major in education and minor in elementary or special education



JACKIE MOWRY sets up a toy for her two-month old baby Morgan in her home near Burgoon this week. The Mowrys are considering buying prepaid tuition credits to make paying for college easier when Morgan graduates from high school.

News-Messenger/Brian Spies

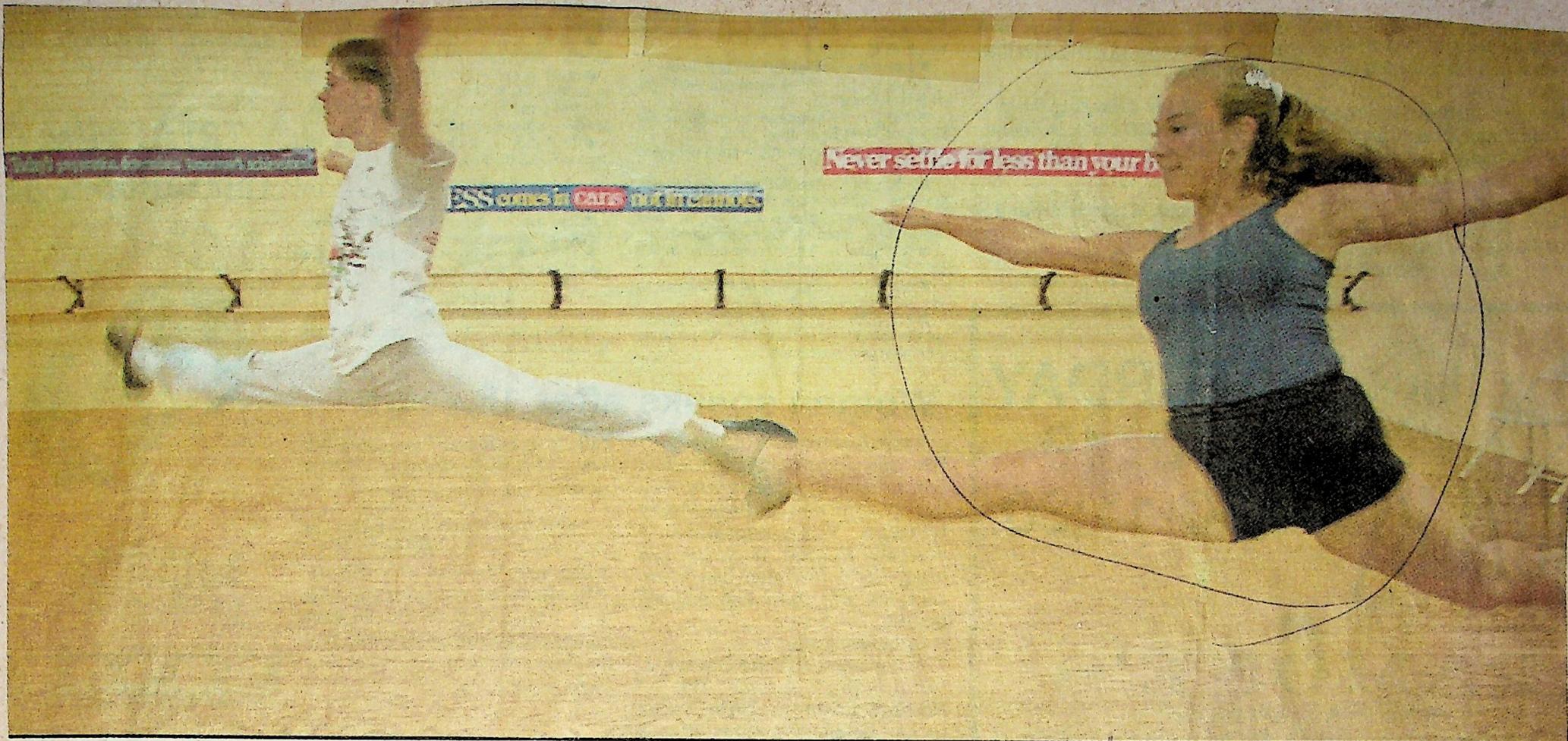


Photo courtesy of Dumminger Photography

Tournament time

The Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic High School golf team and area teams are competing in sectional tournaments today. The sectional is the first step toward a possible state tournament berth in two weeks. Members of the St. Joe team are, left to right, front row: Matt Hirt, Kevin Kayden, Kevin Raubenolt, Mike Robison, Mike

Knisely, Eric Oxley; second row: Aaron Zimmerman, Ryan Mezinger, Pete LeJeune, Ben Sorenson, Larry LaSalvia, Kevin Cooney, Scott Reineck, Dustin Dewey, Aaron Ranker, Nathan Waleryszak, Casey O'Brien and coach Charlie Baker. Last Friday, the Streaks finished second in the Midland Athletic League tournament.



Jimmy Laremore, left, and Kelly Hirt hit the peak of the grande jete step during a recent practice at the Class Act dance studio.

Register photos — TERRY REIMER



Class Act members. Front row, left to right, Tricia Hoffman, Nikki Wetrich, Janelle Chrisman and Wendy Thompson. Back row, left to right, Jimmy Laremore, Lisa Collins, Kelly Hirt and Free Star Yost.

Military

Navy Fireman Michael S. Hirt, son of Don Hirt, 466 W. Sandusky County Road 73, and Linda L. Hirt of Castalia, is on a six-month overseas deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean aboard the dock landing ship USS Anchorage.

The 1992 graduate of Ross High School, joined the Navy in March 1993.



Michael Hirt

Hirt deploys with amphib ready group

CASTALIA — Navy Firefighter Michael S. Hirt, a crew member aboard the amphibious warfare ship USS Anchorage, departed in November on a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf.

Hirt, 23, a two-year Navy veteran, is the son of Linda Hirt, Castalia. A hull maintenance technician, Hirt is one of 2,000 marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, deployed on Nov. 18.

The Anchorage is part of a three-ship amphibious ready group that also includes USS Peleliu and USS Denver. The Anchorage serves primarily as a command control station and provides logistics and communications support to Marine forces on shore.

1995

STATE GOLF PREVIEW

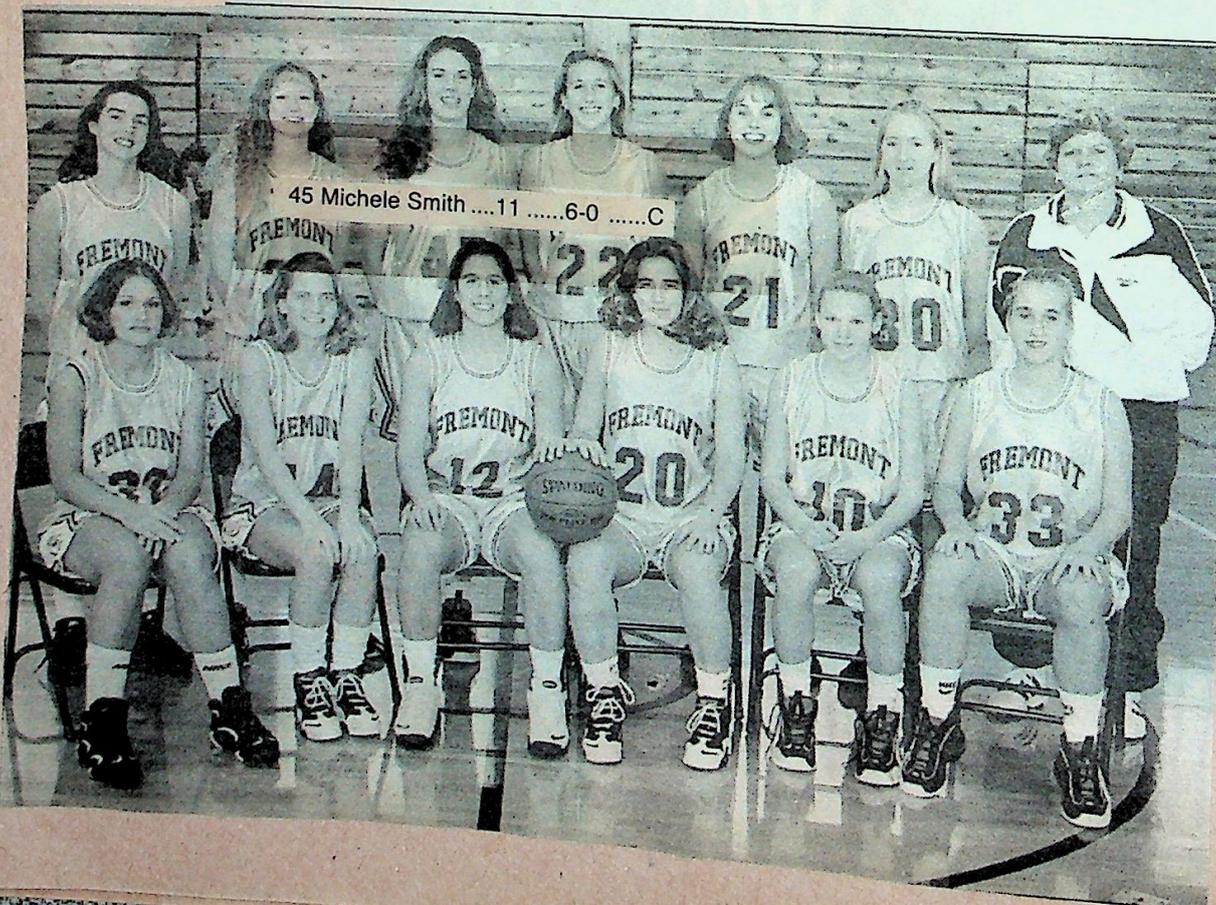


FREMONT ST. JOSEPH Central Catholic golf team members in Columbus today for the state golf tournament beginning Friday,

are from coach Charlie Baker's right Kevin Kayden, Ben Sorenson, Kevin Cooney, Aaron Zimmerman, Dustin Dewey and Matt Hirt.

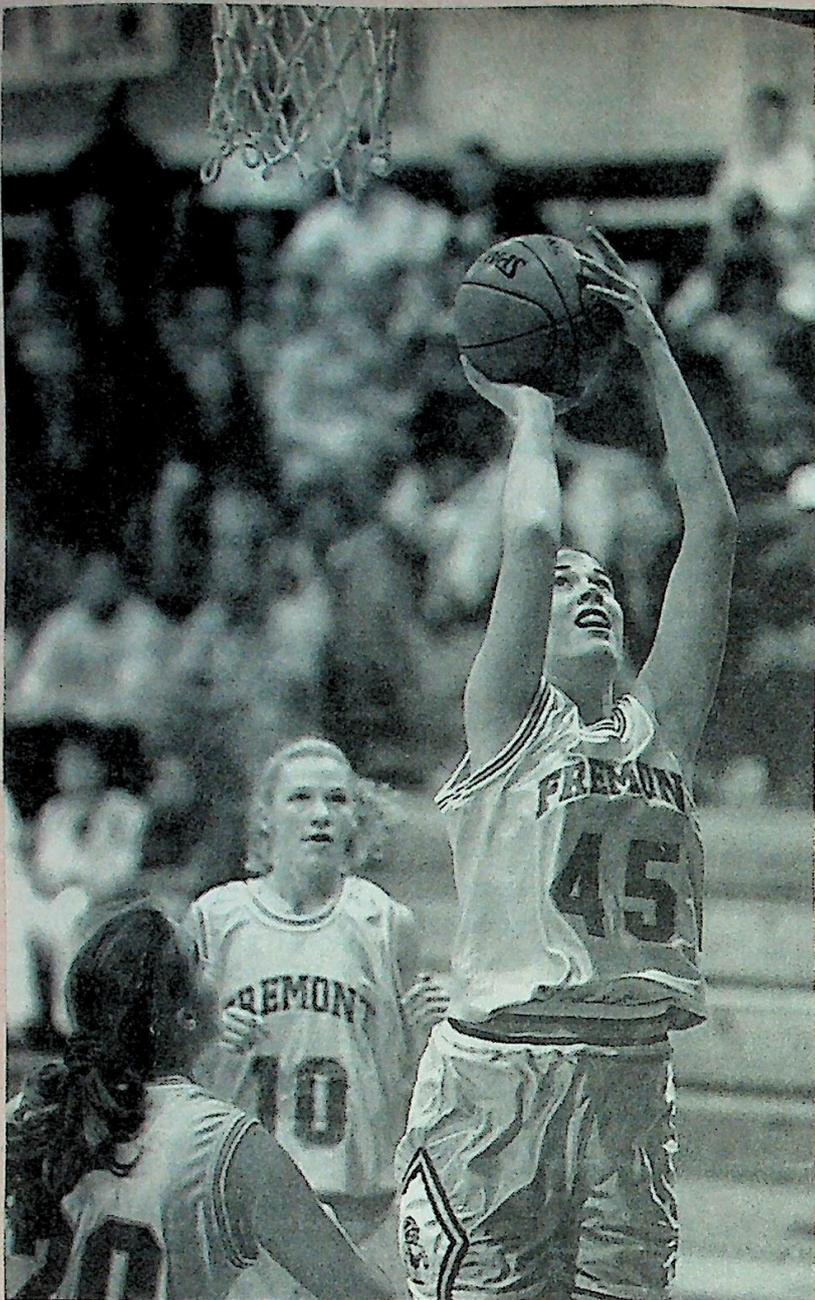
News-Messenger/Bob Marker

Little Giants girls



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Associated Press

MICHELE SMITH of Fremont Ross puts up a shot during the first quarter against Fostoria Thursday night at the Purple Pit.

Martin, Leiser earn ag honors

OSU wrestling coach featured banquet speaker

By **BRIAN SPIESS**
Staff writer

Sandusky County's top farmer — like Ohio State University's wrestling coach — grew up on a farm, where he learned to set goals and go after them.

Lynn Martin, 42, Sandusky County Road 97, was honored Thursday night as the Outstanding Farmer of the Year during the county's Town and Country Banquet at Ole Zim's Wagon Shed.

Lindsey farmer Joe Leiser was given the 1995 Agricultural Service Award.

"You have to be self-motivated and have the ambition to go after things," Martin said, comparing his experiences with those of banquet speaker and Buckeye coach Russ Hellickson.

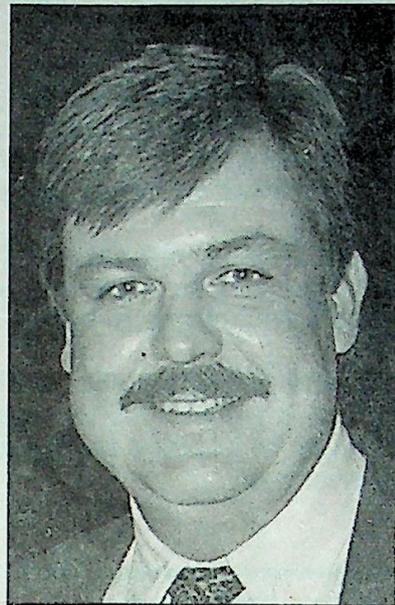
Martin's quest to be a successful farmer could have been slowed this spring when rains gave farmers little time to work.

But good management, according to Agriculture Committee Vice President David Myerholtz, got Martin through that time.

"Lynn Martin is a leader," he said. "He's behind the wheel of a tractor, not behind the wheel of a desk."

Martin, a 1971 graduate of Ross High School and 1975 graduate of OSU, did not know about the honor until he heard 1994 recipients Lewis and Tom Thorbahn introduce him.

"It's a great honor to be voted for by your fellow neighbors and farmers," Martin said.



LYNN MARTIN

Outstanding Farmer

Name: Lynn Martin

Age: 42

Crops farmed: Corn, soybeans, wheat, sugar beets, tomatoes.

Family: Wife Linda; sons Rob and Jeff.

Education: Ohio State University graduate, 1975; Ross High School graduate, 1971.

Our congratulations to Lynn Martin and his father-in-law, Joe Leiser, for the awards they received at the annual Town and Country Banquet.

Martin was recognized for the Farmer of the Year Award.

The Riley Township native, Ross High and Ohio State graduate in ag economics, started farming in 1977. He currently farms 2,000 acres, raising corn, soybeans, tomatoes, sugar beets and wheat.

He is very active in the community. At present, he is president of the Fremont Pickle and Tomato Growers Association. He has been active in the farm bureau and Grace Lutheran Church, holding offices in both.

He has been recognized with Young Farmers awards by both the Young Farmers Association and the farm bureau.

He and Leiser's daughter, Linda, were married in 1975 and have two sons, Rob and Jeffrey.

Joe Leiser received the Agricultural Service Award for his leadership ability in farm credit and in the community.

Joe and his wife, Nancy, the daughter of the Walter Zilles of Riley Township, started their careers in farming.

He retired this past year as the president and CEO of Ag Credit, Fostoria, a cooperative lending institution in 18 counties in north central Ohio consisting of \$320 million loan volume.

In 1964, Joe had a fine dairy herd. Then one night, a fire destroyed their farm buildings. Joe and Nancy made the decision that they didn't want to milk cows the rest of their lives and Joe's career changed.

For a few years, he worked as a salesman for Purdy Sales in Fremont. In 1970, he started his career in the cooperative lending field at PCA in Fostoria.

Since then, he moved up the ranks, gave leadership to the merger of six lending institutions into the present Ag Credit.

In my knowing Joe's philosophy in farm lending, he always wanted the lowest interest with the best terms for farmers.

Since retirement, he spent three weeks in Rumania with Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA) giving them his experience in the ag lending field.

At the weekly meeting of the Fremont Rotary, a special program was celebrated in honor of the club's 70th anniversary.

D. LaMar Christy Jr., who was president of the club 1971-72 and district governor 1978-79, was the chairman.

The History Highlights were presented in a video by Videographer Peggy Rutherford.

Presentations: Decades of Progress:

■ 1926-1941 A. Vaughn Shilling, a member since 1933, president 1940-41,

■ 1942-1956 Earl B. Christy Sr., president 1965-66

■ 1957-1972 John D. Dixon, president 1978-79

■ 1973-1996 William A. Wingard, president 1993-94 and Dennis S. Newman, president 1991-92

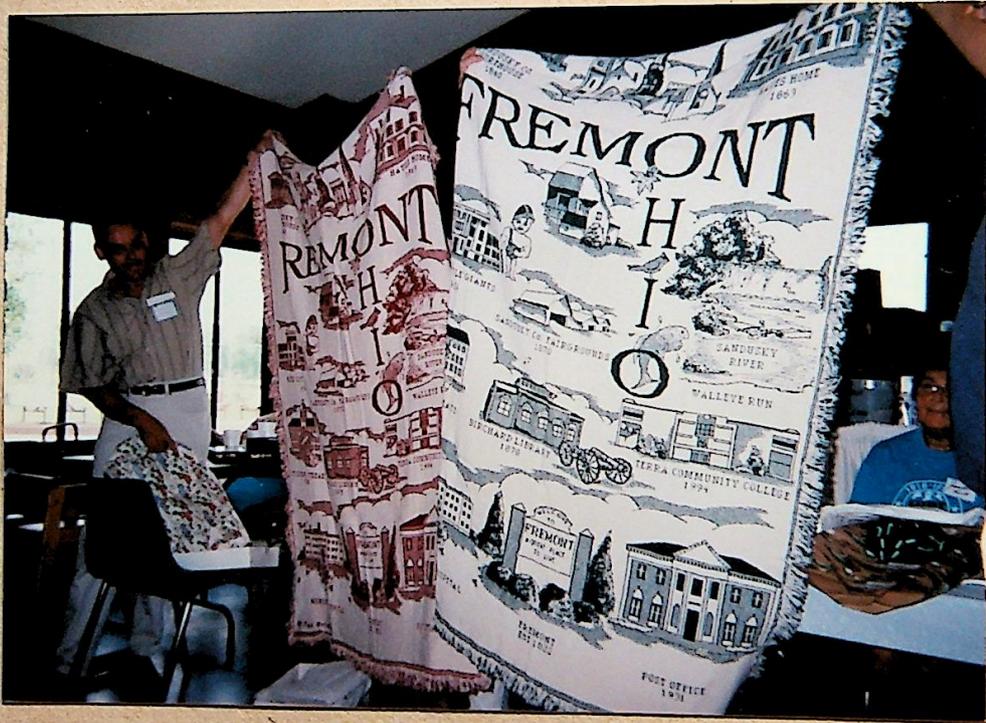
The club was chartered April 28, 1926. The first president was Edward U. Hirt and the secretary was Henry M. Smith. There were 29 charter members.

The following Fremont Rotary members were District Governors: Arthur R. Christy Sr., 1929-

Three area students were inducted to Capital University's list for fall semester. They are: Benjamin Hirt, 1543

There is a window display at Sandusky County Road 226 Finishing Touch Gallery thanks to Rotarian Gary Perkins and William B. Gavitt, secretary 1978-1989.

The special effects and favors were blue and gold by President Charlotte E. Urban.



1995





Leta BAUMANN + Nieces
IN NEBRASKA



1995





Derek Thiessen led Ross with 140 yards.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DEREK THIESSEN of Fremont Ross tries to step over the pile into the end zone during the second quarter on Friday night at Harmon Stadium. Harry Liggins scored soon after to give Ross a 7-0 halftime lead. The Little Giants went on to a 29-13 victory.

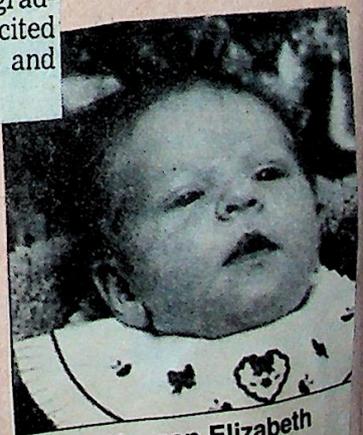
Ross High School Rotary Students for January are Jenny L. Swint and Gregory R. Hirt. Hirt is the son of Bruce and Marsha Hirt, 1028 Birchard Ave. He is an academic bronze medal winner, is on the honor roll and was selected for Ohio Business Week at the University of Findlay. He is a letterman in football and track, is a member of the physics club and is an office worker. His hobbies include skiing, fishing, weight-lifting, running and traveling. He plans to attend Bowling Green State University and major in construction management and minor in business.



Brooke Nicole Diekman
Kevin & Lisa Diekman
Gibsonburg
June 30, 1995

Rotary Students of the Month for March are Katie Hirt and Ryan Shively, seniors at Ross High School. Hirt is the daughter of John and Deb Hirt, 1543 Sandusky County Road 226. She was named outstanding chorus member, most valuable junior, best supporting actress by the Drama Club, and named to Who's Who Among American High School Students. She is a member and president of the Drama Club and belongs to the National Honor Society. She works as a certified nursing assistant at Parkview Nursing Home and plans to be hospital corpsman in the Navy.

Michelle Prosser, daughter of Carol Prosser, 235 E. Sandusky County Road 73, is a student in Jill Kessler's class. Her nomination form stated that she is a member of the safety patrol and choir and is a room helper. She is a member of the Cardinal Club and had perfect attendance for the second grading period. Her form also cited her for her positive outlook and good work ethic.



Morgan Elizabeth Mowry
Jackie & Brian Mowry
Burgoon
October 2, 1995

1995

Quaintance-Hirt

Denice Quaintance and Christopher Hirt were married at 2 p.m. Nov. 18 at St. Joseph Catholic Church by the Rev. Dennis P. Hartigan.

The bride is the daughter of Jim and Dorothy Quaintance, 319 N. Wayne St.

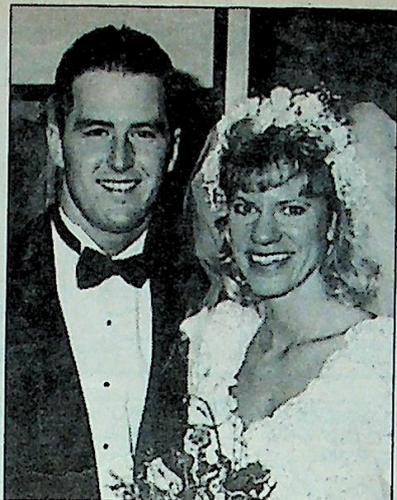
The groom's parents are Ken and Marge Hirt, 918 Woodland Ave., Clyde.

The bride wore a gown of white satin with a sweetheart neckline, long fitted sleeves, and a deep "V" back accented with a bow. Hand-pearled and sequined re-embroidered alencon lace adorned the bodice. The lace-edged ballroom skirt swept into a cathedral train.

Her headpiece was a wreath of sequined alencon lace with rosettes, pearl loops and Austrian crystals with a double pouf and two tiers of waltz length veiling.

She carried a cascading bouquet of white roses and purple statice.

Matron of honor was Teresa George, sister of the bride. She wore a royal purple velvet floor-



CHRISTOPHER HIRT and DENICE QUAINANCE

length sheath dress accented with chiffon draping. She carried an arm bouquet of hot pink roses and white bows.

Bridesmaids were Lorianne Stull, sister of the bride; Veronica Stemen, Andrea Opelt, Renee Cronin, friends of the bride; and Gina Quaintance, niece of the bride. They were dressed identical to the matron of honor.

Flower girl was Nicole Quaintance, niece of the bride.

Best man was Eric Hirt, brother of the groom.

Groomsmen were Jeff House, Patrick Militello, Matt Conner, friends of the groom; Joe Quaintance, brother of the bride; and Don Dolweck, cousin of the groom.

Ushers were John and Jim Quaintance, brothers of the bride.

Ring bearer was Anthony Herr, cousin of the groom.

The reception was at P-K's Banquet Hall.

They honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico.

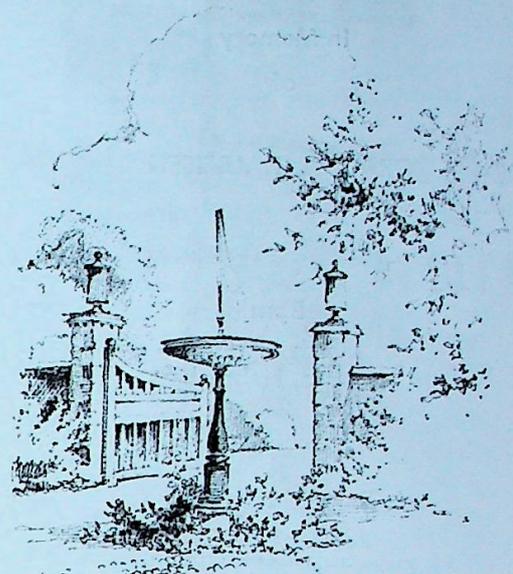
The bride is a 1993 graduate of Bowling Green State University with a bachelor's degree in education and a 1994 graduate of Bowling Green State University with a master's degree. She is employed as a Title I teacher at Atkinson Elementary School.

The groom is a 1995 graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in pharmacy. He is employed at the Medicine Shoppe in Bellevue.

Denice Marie Quaintance
Fremont, teach
pher Louis Hi
pharmacist.

Grace Halbeisen

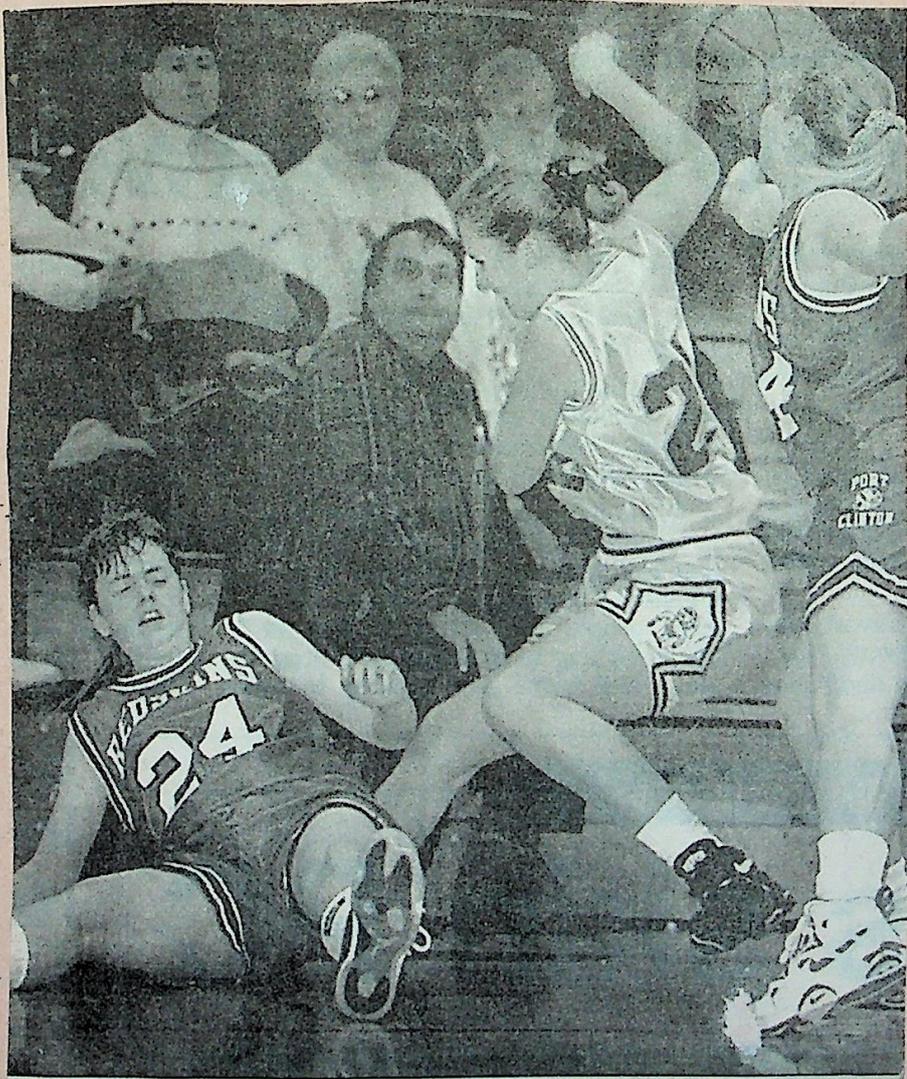
SHELTON — Grace M. Halbeisen, 92, of Shelton died Sunday, Jan. 7, 1996, at St. Francis Medical Center in Grand Island.



In Loving Memory

great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and one sister, Betty McColley of Hermiston, Ore.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two sisters and one granddaughter.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morr

Passing by

Dena Schepflin, middle, of Fremont Ross does a tightrope act on the sideline as she flies past her ear during first-half action Monday night in the Fremont Ross game. Rachel Chaffin (24) and Amy Blatt, right, of Port Clinton get in on the action. The Redskins defeated the Redskins 82-32 in the non-league game.

1995

- 2 -

Speech at the Hirt Reunion, July 23, 1995

Dear members of the Hirt family

Now I have been in Fremont, in the house of Marsha and Bruce Hirt and their kids Greg and Erica, for eleven weeks and I have enjoyed a cordial hospitality like a member of the family.

The design of my stay in this city has been research into the immigration from my area in Switzerland to Sandusky County and the neighbour counties in the 19th century. In Switzerland we find the information about the life of these emigrants before their journey to the New World. So we know why they decided to leave their native town and why they hoped to find a better opportunity in a foreign continent far away from their families. But in the Swiss archives we have very little information about their later life in America. So I have come to Fremont in order to find out what happened to our emigrants in Sandusky County, if they had success in life in Ohio, if their hopes were fulfilled.

My research in Fremont has been very successful. I have found nearly one hundred emigrants who traveled from our villages to this area. Most of them settled down in Fremont and in the townships of Riley and Ballville. In the country they worked as landlaborers or farmers, in town as butchers, bakers, carpenters, inn- and hotelkeepers or as laborers.

I suppose that today you are especially interested in the information which I got about Casper Hirt and his wife Verena Vogt, and so I will tell you as briefly as possible what I have found out:

In the "Fremont Courier", a newspaper in the German language I came across a detailed obituary, probably written by Charles Hirt, Casper's nephew, who also stayed on the farm in Riley for several years. In this obituary he tells about Casper's adventurous journey from Fremont to Sacramento in 1848, when he was seized by the goldrush. It was a matter of about ninety days before Casper arrived in California. He at once found a good job as a gold-digger. Within a short time he earned a lot of money; but he was not satisfied. He listened to some adventurers who told him that in Australia more gold could be found. In spite of warnings Casper hoped to gain more money there and so he made the voyage to Sidney within sixty-five days.

There he came to know that he had been cheated by English speculators. So he lost his money and decided to go back to California. But now it was a journey of one hundred and sixty-five days by ship and the passengers almost died of hunger. In California Casper worked again in the gold-mines until he had saved enough money.

In spring 1854 Casper went back to Switzerland and he appeared in Stilli as a great and successful gentleman. He told people about America and glorified his new country. At that time the economic situation in Switzerland was bad and so forty more people decided to emigrate together with Casper Hirt as their leader. Most of them came from Stilli and Villigen. In this group there was also Verena Vogt, his later wife. But that was a story: At that time Verena had a different friend, namely Henry Märki, who had also emigrated to Ohio and expected his bride in the area of Defiance. Now Verena fell in love with Casper Hirt; she left the former friend and never wrote to him. In Villigen I found a letter about that story, saying what a bad woman Verena and what a bad man Casper were. After the arrival in America Casper and Verena married in Philadelphia as soon as possible. Most immigrants of Casper Hirt's group continued their journey to Sandusky County and settled down there.

This was the place where Casper Hirt also met his brother John Henry and they decided to make their living together. In 1855 Casper bought a farm of eighty acres in Riley, and now they began to work. I'm sure they were active and industrious, for after few years they could enlarge their ground and finally in 1876 the Hirt farm covered three hundred and ten acres. - Between 1855 and 1871 Verena gave birth to nine children, eight boys and one girl. One son, John Henry, died in 1877.

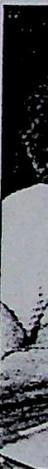
The economic success of the Hirt family was so great that Casper could afford a visit to his old country Switzerland. First his nephew Charles Hirt started in May 1878 with two couples, the Baumanns and the Fabings, two other successful families of Fremont. Because of the danger of such a voyage Casper first wrote his last will, especially in favor of his wife and his brother John Henry, who had lived and worked with him for more than twenty years. Then he made his journey together with John Keller, a Swiss butcher and farmer of the same area. They visited the World's Fair in Paris. Then they arrived in Switzerland and met the other travelers of Sandusky County. We can read in the German newspaper of Fremont that they

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enjoyed their trip. They visited their relatives and their friends and also - like Americans tourists today - the Swiss mountains. At the end of October the group went back to Ohio.

After many years of prosperity a hard time began for the Hirt family now: In 1880 three brothers of Casper passed away, among them old John Henry, his lifelong companion. In 1881 Casper himself died of a pneumonia. In 1882 the son Adolph died of appendicitis. In 1884 typhoid fever broke out in the Hirt home. On October 23 we read in the "Democratic Messenger":

"Six members of the Hirt family of Riley township are now down, dangerously sick. Drs. Stamm and Gessner are the attending physicians." Nevertheless, mother Fannie and the sons Charles and Henry passed away. Because of the disease the bodies had to be buried without funerals. Only three months after the deaths the funerals were held in the German Reformed Church of Fremont. At that time two sons were still minors. They got a guardian, namely their uncle Abraham Vogt, who lived next to the Hirts.

After these bad years nearly fifty years passed until the next son died. The surviving four brothers and their sister earned their own livelihoods and started their own families - and most of you are their descendants!

Dear Hirts, this is a short summary of the information which I have found here - in Hayes Library and in the Courthouse - about Casper Hirt. I have also found various pieces of news about the Vogts, Kistlers, Kellers, Millers, Horlachers, Hartmanns, Finsterwalds, Ernes, Houses and many Baumann families. Later I would like to write a book about the immigration from Switzerland to Sandusky County, first in German of course. But if we found a good translator and got the money for the print we could also make a book in the English language. Who knows, perhaps I will come back to Fremont one day!

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RUTHERFORD B. HAYES

Presidential Center

Swiss Researcher at Hayes Library

By Rebecca Hill

The Hayes Library frequently hosts presidential researchers, Ohio genealogists, and 19th century scholars from across the nation. The library, however, was home to an international researcher for ten weeks this summer when Max Baumann of Switzerland utilized the Hayes Library almost daily.

Herr Baumann is a professional historical writer and high school teacher in the Canton of Zurich. He researched emigrants who came to Sandusky County between 1840 and 1900 from an area of Brugge, Switzerland. Baumann was particu-



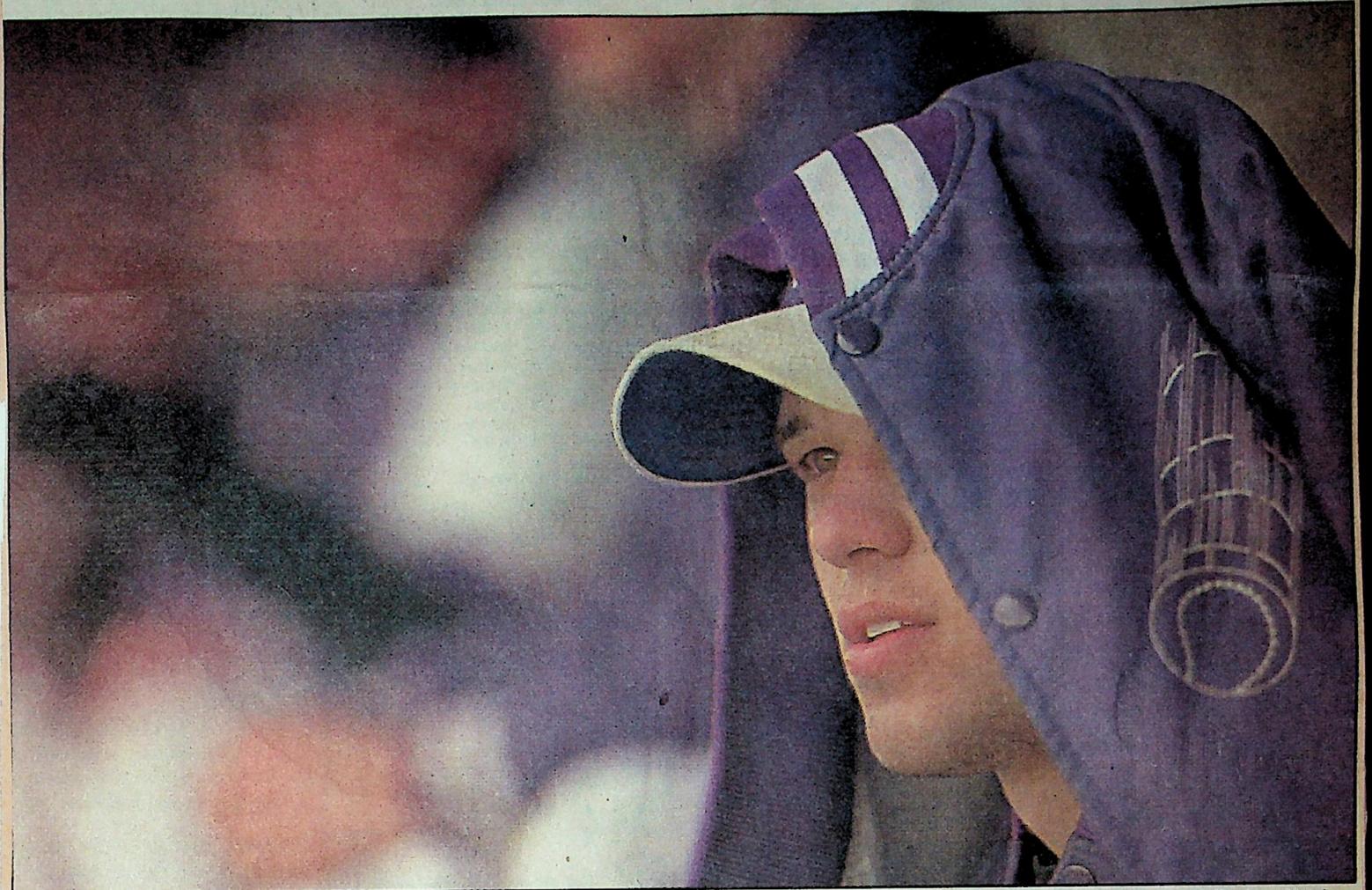
Max Baumann and Eleanor Kiser discuss Swiss Genealogy.

larly interested in the names of Bauman(n), Hirt, Keller, Kistler, Finsterwald, Miller, Vogt, Horlacher, Haus (House), and Hartman. Baumann studied the social and economic effects of this Swiss migration and plans to write a book using his research.

Because of his vast knowledge of Swiss history and genealogy, Baumann soon became a popular figure at the library. Many Northwest Ohioans visited him to share their family's letters and memorabilia, and asked his assistance with Swiss genealogy. Sandusky County, especially Riley and Ballville townships, have large Swiss populations.

Baumann stayed with the local Hirt family and attended the Hirt family reunion in Fremont on July 22.

Has anyone seen the sun?



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DEREK THIESSEN and his Fremont Ross baseball teammates braved the cold for a game against Northwood Tuesday afternoon.



Sally Troike, left, with Hospice nurse Mary Klausz, R.N.

HOSPICE
OF MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
A SPECIAL KIND OF CARING

1995

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BEST ATHLETES!



Michele Smith
Fremont Ross
Volleyball



Casey Schepflin
Fremont Ross
Tennis



Dena Schepflin
Fremont Ross
Tennis



Derek Thiessen
Fremont Ross
Football

Mow-sy Over To Willie's Sales & Service

by Sandy Fox

Go-kart racing was a hot, new fad in 1957. Eighteen-year-old Will Schepflin built two for himself and enjoyed racing them. His hobby turned into a part-time business when he started selling parts and building go-karts for others.

His hobby expanded to include lawnmowers in 1964, doing repair work for friends and family. In 1970, he began selling Toro equipment. He worked for a construction company during the day and opened his repair business from 6-11 PM.

During the 1970's, his wife Helen opened the shop at noon. In 1978, he added a line of Snapper equipment and McCullough chain saws. By 1979 the business was so successful that Schepflin quit his construction job to run the full-time sales and service center.

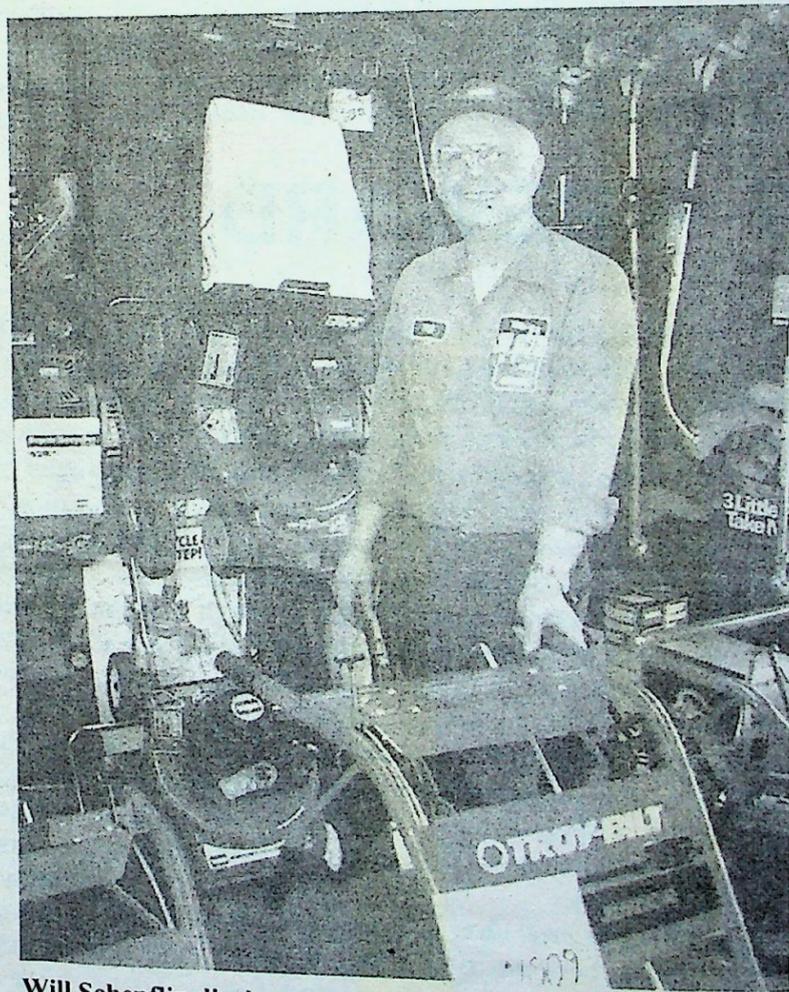
The original garage has had five additions built onto it over the years. Schepflin won the Mr. Toro award in 1980 for top

Toro sales and service in northern Ohio. He has been an authorized Troy-Bilt dealer since 1990.

Willie's Sales & Service is one of the largest dealers of power lawn and garden equipment in N.W. Ohio. "A lot of people would be shocked at the size of our operation," Schepflin said. "It looks small because its back off the road." The store carries lawnmowers, chain saws, tillers, snow blowers, weed eaters, and garden tractors, besides a 150,000 parts inventory. It also has numerous accessories, including 500 different types of tires.

Willie's takes trade-ins. According to Schepflin, 80% of new lawnmower sales are mulching mowers, due to the increased interest in the environment. For the past few years, fun carts for yards have also been popular. These carts have 3 1/2 -5 hp engines and travel 25-35 mph.

Willie's is a service center



Will Schepflin displays some of the mowers and tillers available.

- FT photo

for discount store mowers. There are four mechanics, including Schepflin's son Chuck, who is a certified Briggs and Stratton master mechanic. The

mechanics attend service update schools put on by manufacturers during the winter.

Willie's Sales and Service is at 2215 E. State St., Fremont.

S TO TES!

Vet: Always be kind to animals, especially this week

By ROBERTA GEDERT
Staff writer

When Clyde veterinarian Laurie Hirt returns home after a long day at work, it's almost as if she never left the office.

When she comes up the driveway of her country home, or opens the door, it's a pretty good bet she'll be greeted by Cubby, Pup or Ginger. If they're not up to it, Rocky, Boo-Boo, Higgins or Bell will gladly take over the honors.

Even a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig named Porky has to get in a greeting somewhere.

Hirt has only one word to describe the large pack of dogs, cats, birds and pig that call her

HELPFUL HINTS: Get some tips from Sandusky County Dog Warden Pat Ickes for Be Kind to Animals Week, A6.

house home: Family.

"I love them all," she said.

Hirt fits the description of this week's national celebration of "Be Kind to Animals." Most of her pets are animals brought into her veterinary clinic that Hirt could not bear to put to sleep.

"I don't like to kill things unless there's a reason," she said.

Every pet was acquired differently. Porky couldn't get along with his previous owner's Great Dane. Brandy had a condition

where her jaw locked up, which was eventually fixed. Some didn't get along with children or other family pets, or were the result of their owners' divorce. Some that Hirt gave away, eventually returned.

Hirt still tries searches for other homes, but some probably wouldn't be accepted by anyone else. Cubby, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, has an intestinal disorder that causes him to vomit. Frosty had bitten a child on a bicycle that routinely teased her.

Like any large family, there are adjustments to be made, episodes to be had.

More than once, Hirt has jumped into the pond in her yard to save Cubby from drowning. And she is still trying to figure out how to get her dog Annie to quit dragging her cat Bell around everywhere by her back legs.

"We have personality conflicts, just like if a group of people get together," Hirt said.

"One thing I miss is having my bed to myself," said Tina Brunnet, 19, who has been staying with Hirt temporarily.

Although she loves all of her many pets, Hirt doesn't recommend her lifestyle for anyone, even herself.

"I'm like a drug addict. It's a situation I've gotten myself into, that I'd like to get out of," she said.

Hirt recommends people think long and hard before purchasing a dog, and that current pet owners consider the time and care they are giving their pets. She also hopes pet-seekers consider older mixed breeds, and not just puppies.

July 4 — Alisha and David Taylor, Clyde, a 7-pound, 6½-ounce son, Drake Michael, at 4:42 a.m. at Bellevue Hospital. He was 20½ inches long. Local grandparents are Carol and Mike Glick of Green Springs, Patricia and John Craig of Clyde and David Taylor of Kendallville, Ind., formerly of Clyde.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DR. LAURIE HIRT takes a stroll around her property with some of her furry friends.

carry the Olympic torch

In the meantime, Ross High tennis star Casey Schepflin has been chosen as an honor escort for the relay's trip through Findlay. Her family is still waiting to see if she also will carry the torch.



SHEPFLIN

"It should be fun. It will definitely be a memory," Schepflin said.

Schepflin's route to Olympic participation was in a similar fashion. She was nominated through the Great Scot grocery store in Findlay.

Her father Larry Schepflin works for Great Scot in Fremont.

The Schepflins later received a letter from Great Scot company owners Mike and Susan Needler, asking Casey to run the Findlay relay because of her athletic talents.

Now a senior at Ross, she has lettered in both track and softball and competed in state-level tennis.

"She's a very good athlete," her mother Ginny added.

Schepflin hesitated at first. She's a tennis star, not a track star.

But she decided to accept the challenge to run June 8 on Main Street in Findlay.

"Now that I think about it, it's going to be an honor," Schepflin said.

"We're so excited. We're so proud of her," her mother said. "We'll watch her run all the way."

Most Olympic torch relays are one kilometer, but Ginny Schepflin said her daughter might be asked to run 3½ miles. Schepflin has run as far as three miles before, but admits she prefers not to run distance.

"I've got to start getting into shape," she said.

After graduation, Schepflin plans to major in special education and elementary education at Bowling Green State University.

Top 10 Ross seniors named



■ Dena Schepflin, daughter of Richard and Anne Schepflin;

Oscar M. Claus

Feb. 19, 1922 — May 1, 1996

Former Fremont Oscar M. Claus, 74, died Wednesday in Thornton, Ill.

Born in Missouri to Carl and Ella (Martin) Claus, he was raised in Fremont and graduated in 1940 from Ross High School.

He married Dorothy Hirt, formerly of Fremont, and worked for the Herbrand Corp.

Surviving are his wife; children Phillip Claus of Thornton, Ruth Ann Claus of Munster, Ind., Catherine Burckhardt of Germany and Barbara Gonzalez of Chicago Heights, Ill.; 10 grandchildren; and sisters Agnes Stokes and Viola May, both of Fremont. Sister Ruth Kathleen Varley is deceased.

Services are 11 a.m. Tuesday at Redeemer Lutheran Church in South Holland, Ill., with burial at Oakland Memory Lanes.

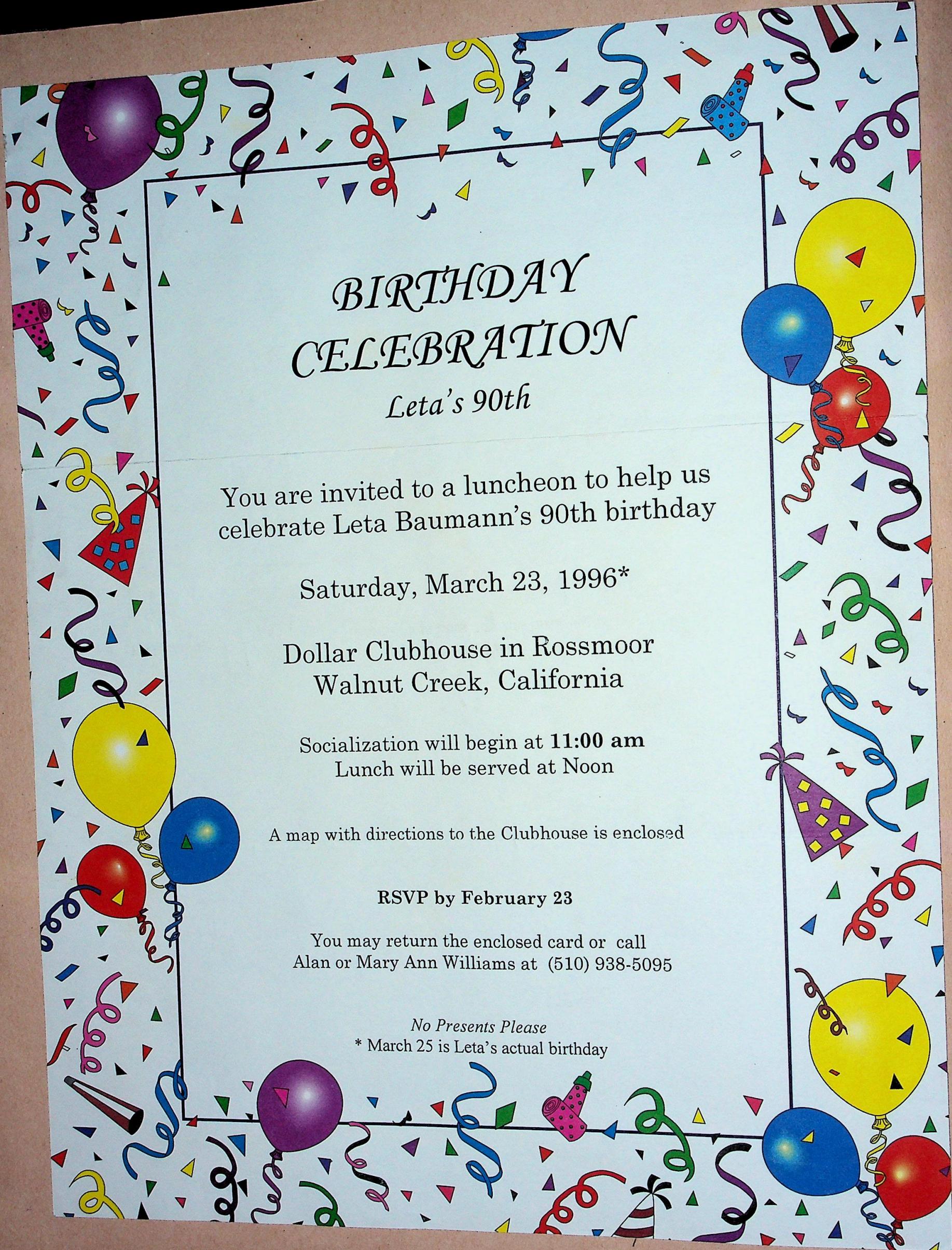
Visitation is today at Drumm Funeral Home in South Holland. Additional visitation is one hour before the services Tuesday at the church.

Memorials may be made to the church, 651 E. 166th St., South Holland, Ill.

1996

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St., Fremont.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Leta's 90th

You are invited to a luncheon to help us
celebrate Leta Baumann's 90th birthday

Saturday, March 23, 1996*

Dollar Clubhouse in Rossmoor
Walnut Creek, California

Socialization will begin at **11:00 am**
Lunch will be served at Noon

A map with directions to the Clubhouse is enclosed

RSVP by February 23

You may return the enclosed card or call
Alan or Mary Ann Williams at (510) 938-5095

No Presents Please

* March 25 is Leta's actual birthday

Resident's 90th birthday bash beats all

By Wilma Murray
Staff writer

This time last year at Fun Day there were more than 30 birthdays being celebrated. The big cake was cut into many pieces, but by the end of the birthday list, the pieces got smaller and smaller until they were slivers. Leta Baumann got one of those slivers.

But not this year.

This year, her name's at the top of the list. This year she vows she's going to get a big piece. After all, this year her birthday is special. 1996 marks the completion of her 90th year.

She's doing it up big this time around. As she said, "You're only 90 once!"

The weekend before her actual birthday—March 25—was full of partying. Guests gathered from 11 states (and Australia) to help her celebrate.

The youngest of 14 children who grew up in Nebraska, Leta says she's the only one of her siblings left. She does have nieces and nephews, though, and they gathered around her from as far away as South Carolina and Florida, not to mention Texas, Ohio, and other places.

"It was more than just my party," she said. "It was kind of a reunion."

With such a big group, Leta said she couldn't possibly have had them all visit her at once in her manor, much less stay there. So, they all booked rooms at the Embassy Suites and gathered Friday night for a

big dinner—all 40 of them.

The following morning, they all headed over to Dollar Clubhouse and joined with friends to celebrate some more.

"I'm so grateful that they think enough of me to do this for me," she said.

Looking at pictures from the events, nobody could guess which of the gathering was turning 90 if he didn't know who Leta was. Sitting amongst her nieces and nephews, most of whom are in their 70s, Leta looks like one of the "youngsters," with her clear, pink skin and thick touse of pale blonde hair.

And she acts the part of a woman way below her years, as well, though she admits a broken hip has slowed her down some.

Living alone, Leta still drives (though not too far), bakes bread for her neighbors ("I swear they can smell it!"), and keeps busy with clubs and volunteer activities.

She's involved with the Methodist Church, belongs to the American Legion and is a member of two pinochle clubs. To add to it all, she volunteers for Meals-on-Wheels.

"I'm a great supporter of them," she said. "I'm for volunteer work."

She helps mostly with fundraising, giving out door prizes at bingo and taking part in annual fund-raising sales. She also knits and crochets crafts for bazaars.

Up 'til now, she has been a greeter for the Gay 90s parties, too. But this year, she said,

"I'll go and get to sit down and be waited on!"

If you ask her secret for her youthful glow, she'll tell you it's in the genes, or that it's because of her upbringing, or that it's because she lost her father at age two and "had to learn to stand on my own two feet."

She also attributes her longevity to Rossmoor. "You know what they say," she explained. "If you live here, you live 10 years longer than anywhere else."

But her positive attitude and connection with others seem to have a lot to do with it, as well.

"I don't get down very low," Leta said. "I don't feel sorry for myself. I've had a wonderful life. I enjoy people."

That life consisted of being raised on a farm with her 13 siblings; marriage at age 22 and a move to Colorado where she taught school; another move to Eugene, OR, where she raised her son and where her husband died; remarriage and widowhood once again; and a move to Rossmoor 17 years ago. Now, along with all her activities here, she also travels quite a bit. She's heading for Switzerland in the fall.

"I've had a busy life," she said.

On one of her many trips, she met a young woman from Australia, Jo-anne Robson, and they hit it off. They wrote to each other after that trip seven years ago and Jo-anne came to stay with Leta for her birthday celebration.



News photo by Pat Prettie

Leta Baumann shows off one of the many birthday cakes she had for her 90th birthday.

People have been coming and going for this birthday week. "This has been like a dormitory!" she explained, obviously unperturbed by the suggestion.

All the out-of-towners delighted in what they found here. "They didn't know I lived in such a nice place," Leta said, and added that all her relatives were amazed at Dollar Club-

house and the surroundings. "Everybody was so elated over the beauty of California."

The whole experience has left her a little giddy. "We had a wonderful time," she said. "It's going to stick in my mind for the rest of my life."

And as all her friends and family left to go home, Leta bid them adieu with a parting shot: "See you at my 100th!"

High School



Matthew Hirt



Gregory Hirt



Katie Hirt



Casey Schepflin



Dena Schepflin



Robert Martin

May 29 — Lori (Klausz) and John Halsey, Bellevue, a 6-pound, 6-ounce daughter, Jordan Elizabeth, at 11 a.m. She was 20 inches long. Local grandparents are Mary Klausz and Phil and Connie Klausz, all of Fremont, and John and Iva Joyce Halsey of Bellevue.

The Top 10

Ross High School announced its top 10 academic seniors at the Sunday graduation ceremonies.

The school does not name a valedictorian or salutatorian.

The top 10 students are listed in alphabetical order.

- Amber Brenamen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Brenamen.
- Keith Decker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Decker.
- Kristen Farrell, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Scott Farrell.
- Douglas Hershey, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hershey.
- Nathan Mortimer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Mortimer.
- Marc Naderer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Naderer.
- Karen Sankovich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Sankovich.
- Dena Schepflin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schepflin.
- Jason Strayer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Greg Strayer.
- Ellen Zienta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Zienta.

1996

Eric Hirt

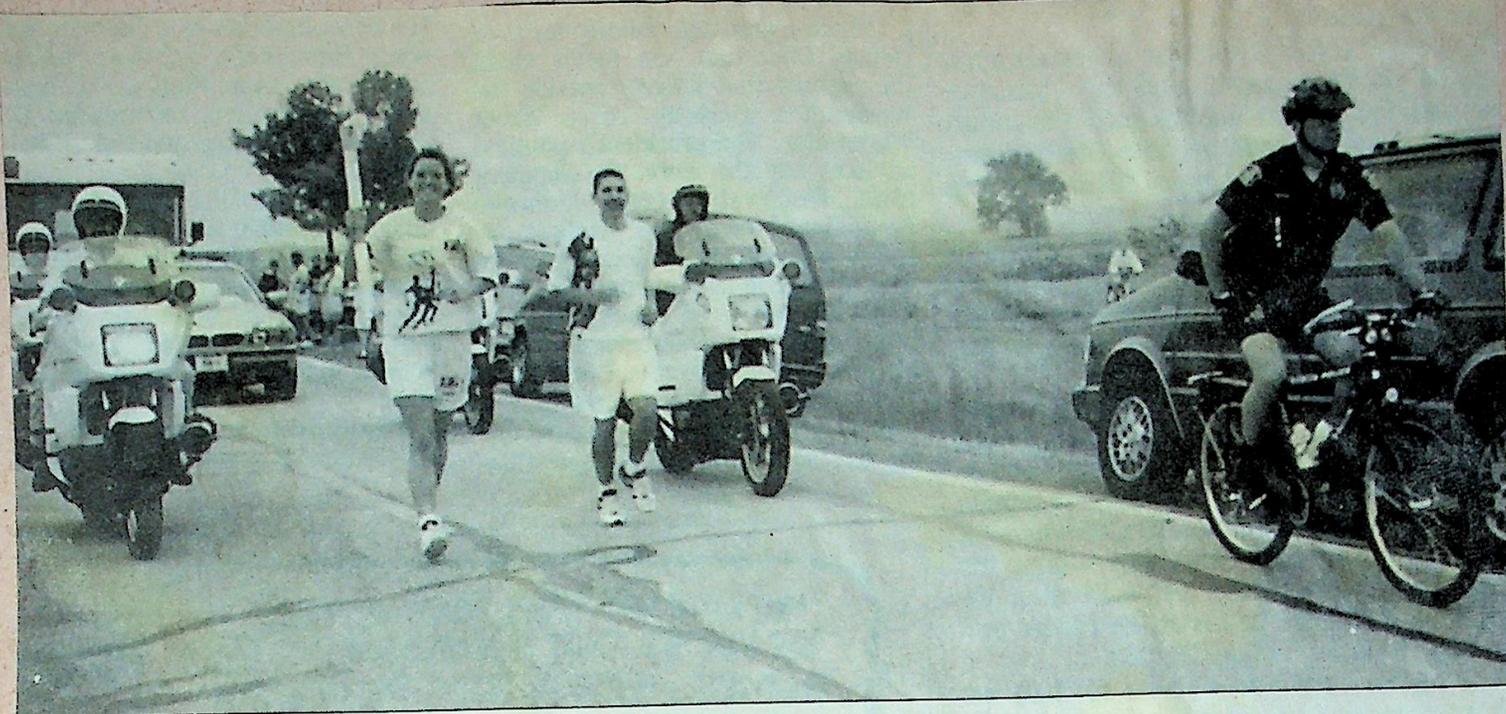


You are one of a kind
Happy 21st Birthday
Love You, Dad, Mom,
Chris & Denice

1916 HIRT 1996

Mark your calendar NOW for the
80th Hirt Family Reunion
Sunday, July 21 1996 at:
MISTY MEADOWS
Directions to follow
in the next mailing





CASEY SCHEPFLIN carries the Olympic torch briefly in Dublin where she was assigned to be an escort.

Escort also gets to carry torch

Casey Schepflin: 'It was a lot of fun'

By PAULA WETHINGTON
Staff writer

Casey Schepflin, a 1996 Ross High graduate, never did notice how many friends saw her escort the Olympic torch Saturday in Dublin.

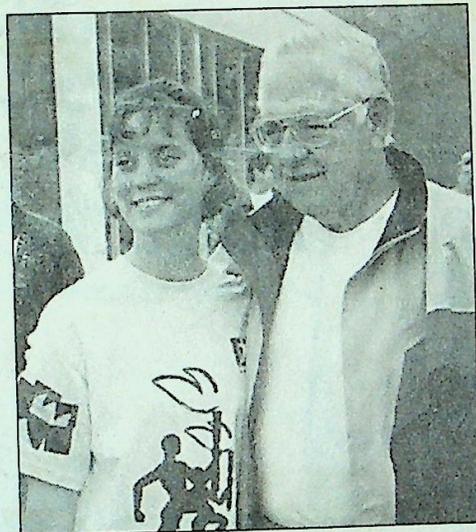
"I really wasn't paying much attention," she said.

Schepflin was an escort runner for the Olympic torch relay from 9:22 a.m. to 9:29 a.m. Saturday in Dublin. Her route was on Dunnpatrick Road and Post Road, past the Dublin Municipal Courthouse. The torch went from Columbus to Michigan that day.

Olympic officials estimated 40,000 spectators were in or near Dublin. Among that crowd was Schepflin's family and some friends — she has no idea how many people she personally knew along her 2½ mile route.

"Too excited, I guess," she said.

But she does remember every other



CASEY SCHEPFLIN gets her picture taken with Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's.

detail of that day.

"It was great. It was a lot of fun," she added.

Escort runners help cheer and encourage the torchbearers, providing a drink

of water or any other assistance as needed. Schepflin was asked to escort four runners — three of them let her briefly carry the torch.

Great Scot grocery store nominated her for the assignment. Schepflin, who played tennis and softball at Ross High School, was originally asked to run in Findlay. But her location was later changed.

Another highlight of the day was getting her picture taken with Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers. He was an unannounced escort runner assigned near Schepflin's route.

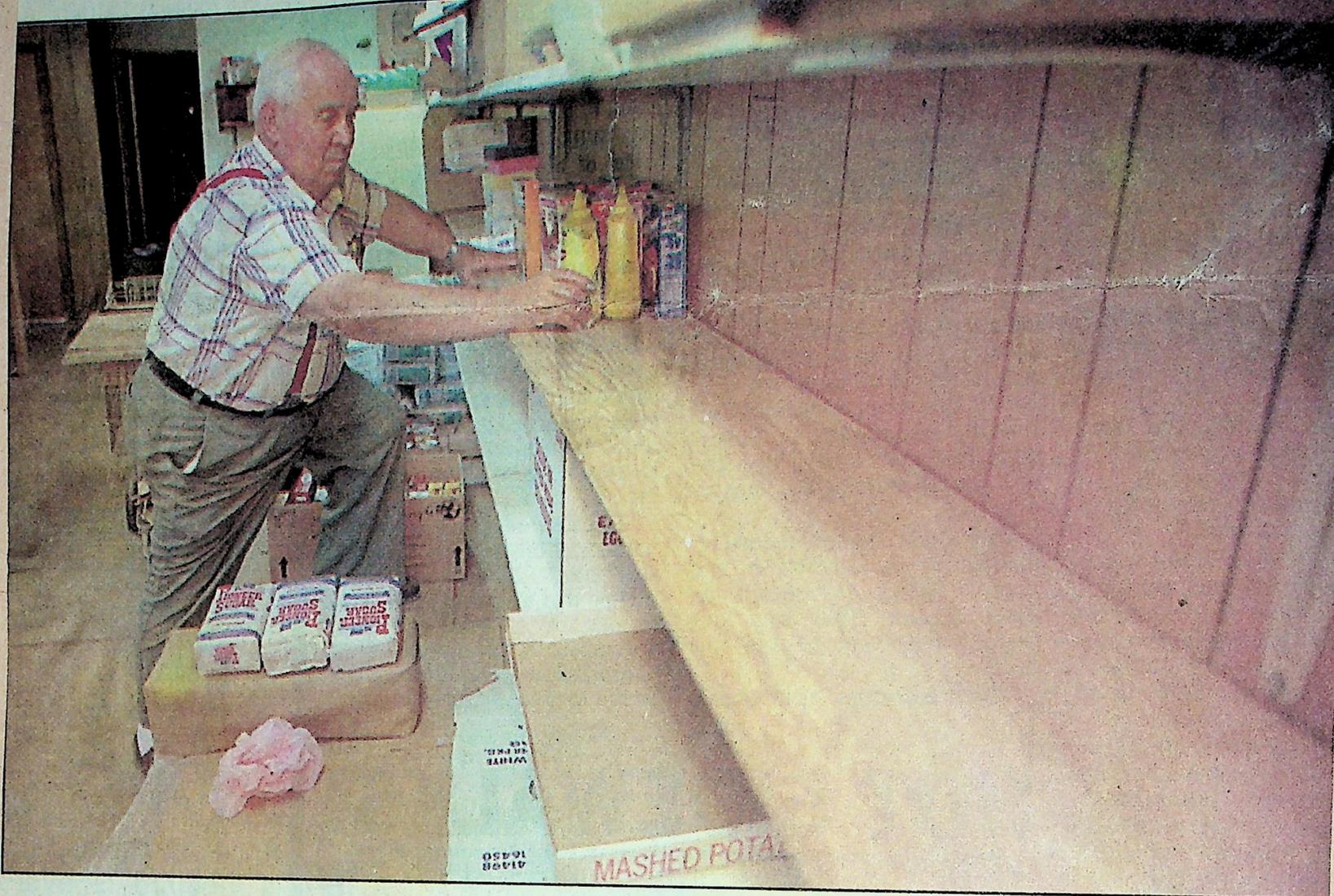
"At first when I saw him, I didn't think it was him," she added.

But her parents quickly snapped a picture.

"That was neat, meeting Dave Thomas," her father, Larry Schepflin said.

Casey Schepflin now has a scrapbook full of newspaper clippings, letters and photos from her special day. She also got to keep her escort runner uniform and was given other Olympic souvenirs.

Shelves are empty at Food Pantry



CARL HIRT straightens up an almost empty shelf at the Sandusky County Food Pantry. Hirt is the vice president of the Food Pantry.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison



SANDUSKY COUNTY Food Pantry vice-president Carl Hirt and Bank One Banking Center manager Jodi Albright put the last ornaments on a Christmas tree at Bank One. The tree is part of a food collection drive the bank is sponsoring July 22-26.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

THANK YOU

to everyone who donated to the Food Pantry. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

Carl Hirt
Vice President



Casper & Berena Hirt
80th Annual Reunion
Sunday July 21, 1996



Dear Hirts!

Casper Hirt

Berena Hirt

Time again for the Hirt families to gather and meet their kin and enjoy another reunion. We all have good thoughts from the past big reunions so the committee is working hard to have another good one. Expect to see you all again this year.

Location is changed this year. MISTY MEADOWS CAMP FIRE GROUNDS on Baker Road (see inclosed map). The day will start with a GOLF SCRAMBLE at 8:00 a.m. at Sycamore Hills Golf Course, followed by a potluck at noon, business meeting and program. Other activities will be swimming, volleyball, badminton, horse shoes fishing and a baseball game. Please bring your bats and balls. A few games for the small children.

WHITE ELEPHANT & CRAFT AUCTION (please wrap and mark gifts: man, lady or child)

50\50 drawing during the meeting

Barbecue at 5:00 p.m. with hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream for all.

Dues this year will be \$4.00 per family..

SEE YOU ALL ON THE 21st OF JULY FOR A DAY OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

Don Hirt, president
Jim Lagrou, vice president
Jeanette Hirt, sec. treas.

FOR ALL GOLFERS

TEE TIMES STARTING AT 8:00 AM AT SYCAMORE HILLS GOLF COURSE, 3728 W. HAYES AVE. GREEN FEES WILL BE \$9.50 each and \$4.50 PER CART.

Return to Dick Schepflin
1929 Riverbend Pkwy.
Fremont, Ohio 43420

BEFORE JULY 12, or call 334-3288

TEAM:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____



80th
HIRT
FAMILY
REUNION

FREMONT

1916-1996

*We're here a little early
and doing just fine*

Born February 26, 1996

<i>Elizabeth Mary</i>	<i>Collin Phillip</i>
<i>1 pound 9 1/2 ounces</i>	<i>1 pound 9 1/2 ounces</i>
<i>12 3/4 inches</i>	<i>12 3/4 inches</i>
<i>3:45 p.m.</i>	<i>3:52 p.m.</i>

*Waiting to welcome us home
sometime in June,*

*Proud Parents
Ken and Marla Bush*

1996



Hirt family reunion held

The 80th annual family reunion of the descendants of Casper and Verena Hirt was held Sunday, July 21, at Misty Meadows Camp Fire Complex with 215 members and friends attending.

The day started with a golf scramble at 8 a.m. at Sycamore Hills, with 36 golfers participating. Top winners were the team of Rob Miller, T.J. Miller, Tracy Troxel and Vince Troxel.

A huge potluck lunch was enjoyed at noon after invocation by Lyle Hirt. A business program and meeting followed with president Don Hirt in charge. All joined in the Pledge to the Flag, then all sang the "Hirt Song," written 30 years ago for the 50th Hirt reunion.

Six marriages were reported as well as eleven births and five deaths since the last reunion. Remembered with a moment of silence were Benjamin Wibson, Grace Halbeisen, Fred Schoff, Oscar Claus and Lyle Halbeisen. The youngest baby present, Morgan, Elizabeth, daughter of Jacqueline and Brian Mowry, was given the baby bank.

Bill Hirt gave an interesting report concerning his twin baby grandchildren, Elizabeth Mary and Collin Phillip Bush, who were

born February 27, and weighing in at a mere one pound nine and one-half ounce each. Now both are home with their parents, after being discharged last month.

Helen Beier reported receiving a phone call from Max Baumann of Stilli, Switzerland. He had attended the 1995 reunion, since he was doing research at the Hayes Library. Several relatives will be traveling to Switzerland in September to celebrate the 550th anniversary of Stilli. Casper Hirt was born in that town on August 3, 1820.

Election of officers was held with Jim Lagrou elected president, James (Butch) Diedrich vice president, and Janet Owen, new secretary/treasurer. Jeanette Hirt, retiring as secretary/treasurer after 32 years, was remembered by the group.

A white elephant and craft auction was held with John Hirt as auctioneer.

The afternoon was spent swimming, playing volleyball, horseshoes, and catching up on the news. The evening barbecue closed another reunion.

Next year's reunion will be held on Sunday, July 20, 1997, at Misty Meadows.

White hair and all
still don't look 50!
**Happy Birthday,
Mary Klausz!**

(8-11-96)



Love Ya,
Your kids & grandkids
& the guys

Laura Lynn Jay, 26, Fremont, social worker, and Mark Randle Withrow, 26, Fremont, assembler.



DEB HIRT

Junior Fair Chili Cook-Off

First - Deb Hirt.
Second - Adam and John Hirt.

Seneca County

Huss, Mildred R. (Heilman), age 79 years, of Tiffin, OH, died September 23, 1996. The Hoffman-Gottfried Funeral Home, Tiffin, OH.

1996



**KURTISS HIRT
INSURANCE**

Auto • Home • Business • Life
355-8688 or 1-800-589-9010
An Independent Agent

hasselbach & paul agency

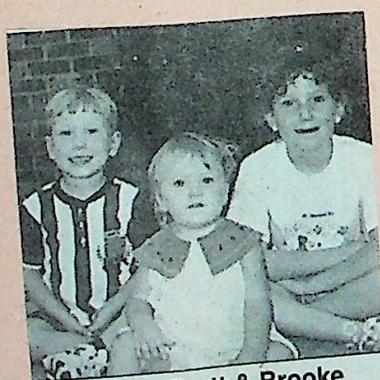


insurance



CENTRAL
INSURANCE
COMPANIES

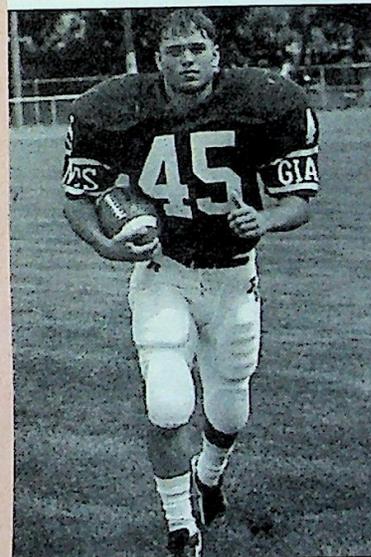
Thiessen plays with pride



Amber, Brett & Brooke
Grandchildren of:
David & Cindy Wellington
Carroll & Connie Diekman



Jordan Elizabeth Halsey
Grandchild of:
Mary Klausz
Tommy & Iva Joyce Halsey
Phil & Connie Klausz



DEREK THIESSEN rushed for more than 1,000 yards last season.

Backs to the front

1996



No matter who is at tailback — Brent Agnew (6), Derek Thiessen (45) or Kenny Morrisette (40) — Fremont gets lots of yards

BLADE PHOTO BY DIANE HIRE

Running game is strength of Ross

Deidrich's dedication pays off as he sees first varsity action

By MICHAEL BOSI
Staff writer

One of the loudest roars from the soggy Harmon Stadium crowd Friday night was not for any of Fremont Ross's five touchdowns. Instead it came as Ross coach Rex Radeloff was emptying his bench against Findlay.

Entering at right outside line-backer: Tatum Deidrich.

A sack of potatoes smaller than any other varsity player at 5-foot-4, 130 pounds, Deidrich wears his purple heart on his



DEIDRICH

when Deidrich was not to be found roaming behind the mass of pads and helmets on the Ross sidelines.

sleeve as much as anyone else in the Little Giants locker room.

Ross was just 41 seconds away from its 34-0 win over the Trojans

"It made everybody feel good," Derek Thiessen said. "I know it had to have been his highlight."

Without question. There he was, poised for the snap — with cornerback Sam Root yelling directions in his ear.

The advice? "I don't remember for sure," said Deidrich.

It was the perfect football snapshot, with rain falling and mud caked onto every uniform.

Deidrich will remember taking his stance, poised for a pass rush. And many, many years down the road, he might even be

able to tell his grandchildren Findlay was so startled that it called a timeout.

But Deidrich never got in on the play, a short rush by the Trojans' Jeff Love.

"I took a half step back and I thought it was a pass and they ran and I just got up there," Deidrich said. "I was almost in on the play."

Deidrich is listed as a wide receiver and cornerback. At least that's where he practices and plays for the junior varsity team.

"Every day it's tough to go against the receivers in practice because they're much bigger than me," said Deidrich, who carries a 3.0 grade point average. "I just stick it out every day in practice and know if I don't play I'll be remembered for working hard on this team every day."

As the game's outcome became out-of-reach, Radeloff seized the opportunity to give some of his wide-eyed reserves the opportunity of their lives.

"We try to get as many players

we can into the ballgame, at least get a snap," said Radeloff. "It was good to see (Deidrich) in there."

"He wanted to get a chance at the quarterback."

He never touched the quarterback, but after Radeloff gave his postgame debriefing to the team, a voice could be heard rallying the troops for next week's big tilt with Fostoria.

"It's Tatum," someone shouted out.

It was Tatum. But that comes as no surprise.

DEREK TH



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DEREK THIESSEN of Fremont Ross (45) tries to break away from Findlay's Mark Bosworth during the first quarter Friday.

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Deaths

Helen Elizabeth Hiebel

March 12, 1900 — Sept. 16, 1996

Helen Elizabeth Hiebel, 96, of Lawndale Drive, died Monday morning at Countryside Continuing Care Center.

She was born in Riley Township to Lewis S. and Clara H.C. (Werth) Hirt. She graduated from Fremont High School in 1918 and attended Bowling Green State University and Colorado State University at Greeley.

She married Carroll T. Hiebel on Aug. 23, 1929, in Toledo. He died on April 11, 1967.

Mrs. Hiebel taught school for 18 years in the Sandusky County School System, beginning with one-room schoolhouses in Riley Township, Stokes, Faust and Lance schools. She also taught at Jackson Centralized Schools, Ballville Township and Babione schools.

She later worked as a social worker for the Sandusky County Department of Welfare for 20 years until she retired in 1966.

She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, the Daughters' Circle and Church Women United. She was also a member of the Sandusky County Tuberculosis Society, Crippled Children and Adult Society and the Sandusky County Historical Society. She was a member of the Ohio Teachers Association and Ohio Civil Service Employees Association. She was a charter member of the Women of the Moose and a member of the Fremont Federation of Women and the Elks Ladies.

Surviving are sisters Grace L. Zilles, Ruth C. Peffly and Marian E. Diedrich, all of Fremont, and nieces and nephews. Brothers Lawrence L., Julius A., Alfred C., Jesse W. and Russell R. Hirt and sister Frieda V. Brugger are deceased.

Services are 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Grace Lutheran Church where her body will lie in state one hour before the services.

Visitation is 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Nopper-Karlovetz Mortuary with Women of the Moose services at 7 p.m.

Burial is at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Sandusky County Historical Society.

Yundt-Conover

Jennifer Anne Yundt and Rodney Wayne Conover were married at 10 a.m. Aug. 17 at The Orlando, Florida Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by Farrell Archie Munns.

The bride is the daughter of Gloria J. Genzman of Orlando, Fla., and Dan T. Yundt of Fremont.

The groom is the son of Sheral and Frankie Conover of Liberty, Mo.

The bride, escorted by the groom, wore a white satin gown with a full oversize skirt and seven-foot cathedral train, a portrait collar and long point sleeves.

The gown was adorned with seed pearls, iridescent sequins and Belgian lace.

Her headpiece was a white and iridescent seed pearl headband with a pouf veil and three-foot veil train.

She carried an arm bouquet of one pink and one cream large open rose, cream colored delphinium and baby's breath, plumosa fern tied with a dusty



RODNEY and JENNIFER (YUNDT) CONOVER

rose bow.

Matron of honor was Gloria J. Genzman, mother of the bride. She wore a celadon green two-piece tea-length silk dress with a portrait collar. She carried a bouquet of one large cream open rose, cream baby's breath and

plumosa fern tied with a cream silk bow.

Best man was Frankie L. Conover, father of the groom.

The reception was at the Orlando Stake Center.

They honeymooned in Puerta Plata, Dominican Republic, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The bride is a 1988 graduate of St. Joseph Central Catholic High School and a 1990 graduate of Owens Technical College with an associate's of art degree in marketing and sales.

She is attending Valencia Community College in Orlando and will graduate as a registered nurse in April 1997.

The groom is a 1983 graduate of LaFayette High School in St. Joseph, Mo., a 1990 graduate of Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Mo., with a bachelor of science degree in aviation technology.

He is a captain with American Eagles Airlines.

They will live in Orlando, Fla.

Atkinson-Yager

Mary L. Atkinson and John C. Yager were married at 6:45 p.m. Sept. 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church by the Rev. Richard Moe.

The bride is the daughter of Lucile Atkinson, 257 Sandusky County Road 119 and the late Norman Atkinson.

The groom's parents are Charles Yager of Wheelersburg and Virginia Brown of Waverly.

The bride, escorted by her brother, Robert Atkinson, wore a white organza gown with a sweetheart neckline and open back bodice that was adorned with pearls and sequins. The "V" bodice was attached to a fully gathered skirt. The train and gown hem were trimmed with lace.

She wore a brimmed hat with a shoulder length veil, adorned with flowers and pearls on the back brim.

She carried a bouquet of white silk roses, white carnations and



MARY L. (ATKINSON) and JOHN C. YAGER

peach roses, trimmed with lace and beads.

Maid of honor was Peg Hirt, friend of the couple. She wore a hunter green tea length chiffon gown accented with short chiffon layered sleeves. The "V" neck-

line was accented with a pearl drop pin. She carried a silk assortment of white, peach and hunter green rose buds, accented with greenery, lace and pearls mounted on a cream colored fan.

Bridesmaid was Jen Schwartz, niece of the bride. She was attired identical to the maid of honor.

Best man was Bob Royster, friend of the couple.

Groomsman was Steve Stoll, friend of the couple.

The reception was at the Fremont Eagles Hall.

They honeymooned in Kentucky.

The bride is a graduate of Ross High School and is employed as a supervisor at Crescent Mfg. in Fremont.

The groom is a graduate of Portsmouth High School and is employed as an engineer at Aeroquip Inoac.

They will live at 313 Sandusky County Road 119, Fremont.

1996

Laura Lynn Jay and Mark Randle Withrow were married at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 7 at Grace Lutheran Church by the Rev. Paul Fuchs.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Jay of Fremont.

The groom's parents are George Withrow of Fremont and Anne Withrow of Old Fort.

The bride, escorted by her father, wore a gown of white satin and schiffli lace. The bodice was beaded with pearls and sequins and styled with a "V" neckline and a heat-shaped cutout on the gown back. The Basque waist was attached to a full gathered skirt with a lace motif cutout on the front and a cathedral train that was beaded and featured a large lace cutout.

Her headpiece was a crystal and pearl tiara with the back pouf embellished with scattered pearls and two tiers of finger-tip veiling.

She carried a cascading bouquet of dendrobium orchids, roses, Calla lilies, minia-



LAURA LYNN (JAY) and MARK RANDLE WITHROW

ture white carnations, ivy garland, and camellia foliage.

Maid of honor was Mary Jay, sister of the bride. She wore an emerald crepe sheath dress with an emerald mushroom pleated portrait collar. She carried an arm bouquet of three Calla lilies and camellia greens trimmed with silver metallic ribbons.

Bridesmaids were Lara Miesle, Penny Parker, and Christie Eby, all friends of the bride. They were dressed to match the maid of honor.

Best man was Dave Withrow, brother of the groom.

Groomsmen were Eric Steinberger and Chad Parker, friends of the groom, and Steve Jay, brother of the bride.

Ushers were George Withrow, father of the groom, and Art Henretty, uncle of the groom.

The reception was at Ole Zim's.

They honeymooned at Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The bride is a 1992 graduate of the University of Toledo with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. She is a social worker with ECI Inc. in Bettsville.

The groom is a 1991 graduate of Terra Technical College with an associate's degree in Applied Business in computer information systems. He is employed at Whirlpool.

They will live in Fremont.

senger, Fremont, Ohio, Monday, August 19, 1996

League champs

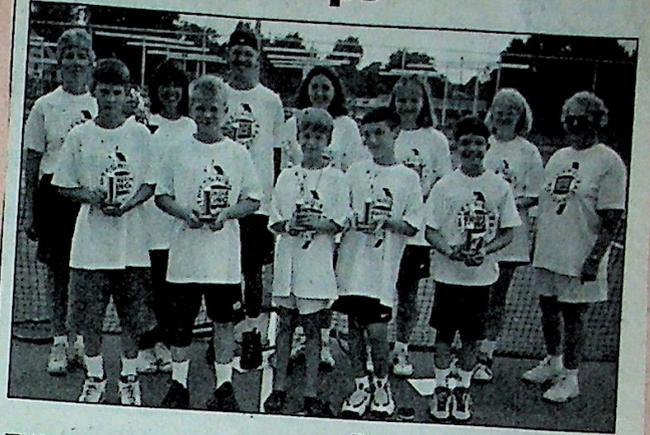


Photo courtesy of the Rackets
THE RACKETS won The 1996 Burger King Youth Tennis League. Pictured from left to right are, front row: Nick Oprie, Marc Brough, Jeff Thropp, Jeremy Leary, Anthony Weiker; back row: coach Marlene Bartson, Ashleigh Emrich, Austin Miller, Courtney LaBenne, Christy Weiker, Kira Zyski, coach Joane Hirt. Missing from photo are Jay Farrell, Ryan Pocock, Ainsley Watkins, Jessica Ash and Jera Johnson. Each player on the team received a trophy. Perfect attendance awards were presented to Ashleigh, Jera, Jeremy, Courtney, Ryan and Ainsley. The game balls were given to those who didn't miss a match. A pizza party was provided for the youths by their coaches.

1996

Anniversaries

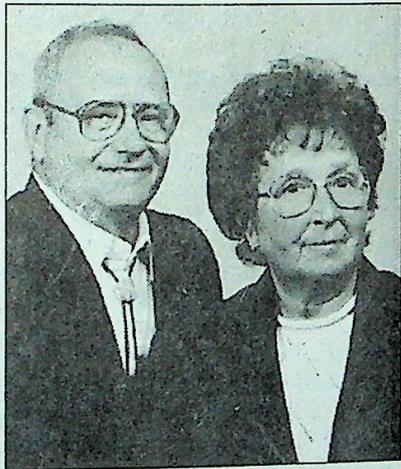
Hirt

Howard and Jeanette Hirt, 639 Gibson St., will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a get-together for family and friends Saturday at Ballville Township House.

Howard and the former Jeanette Stotz were married Oct. 26, 1946, at Grace Lutheran Church by Dr. Lawrence Price.

They are the parents of Mike L., Bruce W., Cindy L. and Mark A., all of Fremont, and Scott E. of San Diego.

They have five grandchildren. Howard is a retired driver for the Fremont Company. Jeanette is retired from



HOWARD and JEANETTE HIRT

Grace Lutheran Church office and is active in the Red Cross.

Oct. 6 — Alisa Florio and Kirk Hess, 1631 Edwards Drive, a 7-pound, 3-ounce son, Samuel Dean Wyatt Hess, at 11:07 p.m. He was 20 inches long. Local grandparents are Dean and Gerry Hess and Don and Judy Walby, all of Fremont, and Marvin and Pat Saam of Bradner. Great-grandparents are Fred and Helen Saam and Thelma Hirt, all of Fremont, and Lillian Klotz of Fostoria.

31st Hirt reunion held

American and Swiss flags decorated the register table when 40 members of the L.S. Hirt family gathered for the 31st annual reunion on November 2 at Clyde Community Hall. Delicious food was enjoyed after singing the Doxology. The Jim C. Deidrich family was host for this year's gathering. Pumpkins and more pumpkins were used for decorations!

The following statistics were recorded:

New Births: Bryan Paul, born February 23, 1996, son of Danielle and Tim Dearth; Paige Nicolle, born August 8, 1996, daughter of Tod and Daun Manifold; Drake Michael, born July 4, 1996, son of

Alisha and David Taylor; Rick, born September 4, 1996, son of Laura and Rick Rodriquez; and Katelynn Mary, born November 12, 1996, daughter of Beth and Mark Lewis.

Marriages: Laura ^{Dunster} Talbert to Rick Rodriquez, November 1, 1996.

Deaths: Helen E. Hirt Hiebel, September 16, 1996.

Many bingo prizes were won and the Ohio Buckeye contest was won by Tim Love. Special door prizes were awarded to Glenn Genzman.

The 1997 reunion will be held on Saturday, November 1, and will be hosted by the H.H. Bruger family.

Zilles

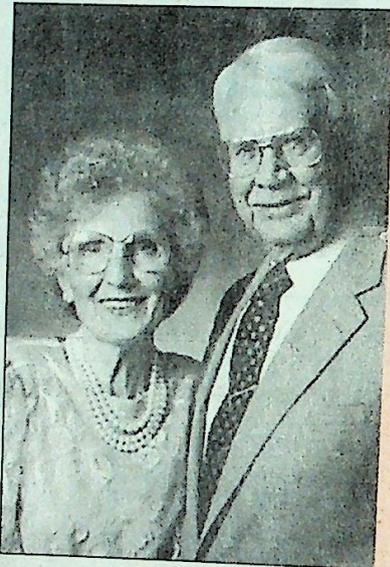
Walter and Grace Zilles, 2497 N. Sandusky County Road 232, will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary with a family dinner at Ole Zim's Wagon Shed.

Walter and the former Grace Hirt were married Nov. 22, 1930, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Toledo by Dr. Henry F. Schuh.

They are the parents of Gwen Dunster of Lima, Nancy Leiser of Lindsey, Shirley Brodbelt of Timonium, Md., Barbara Cole of Ukiah, Calif., and Mary Manifold of Kettering.

They have 18 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Walter is retired from Erie Ordnance Depot and Grace was a teacher in Riley Township and York Schools.



GRACE and WALTER ZILLES



M. SMITH ...
Wants smooth
senior year

Michele Smith, Fremont Ross volleyball, basketball and softball star: "I want for my senior year to be the best, for it to end smoothly."



SMITH

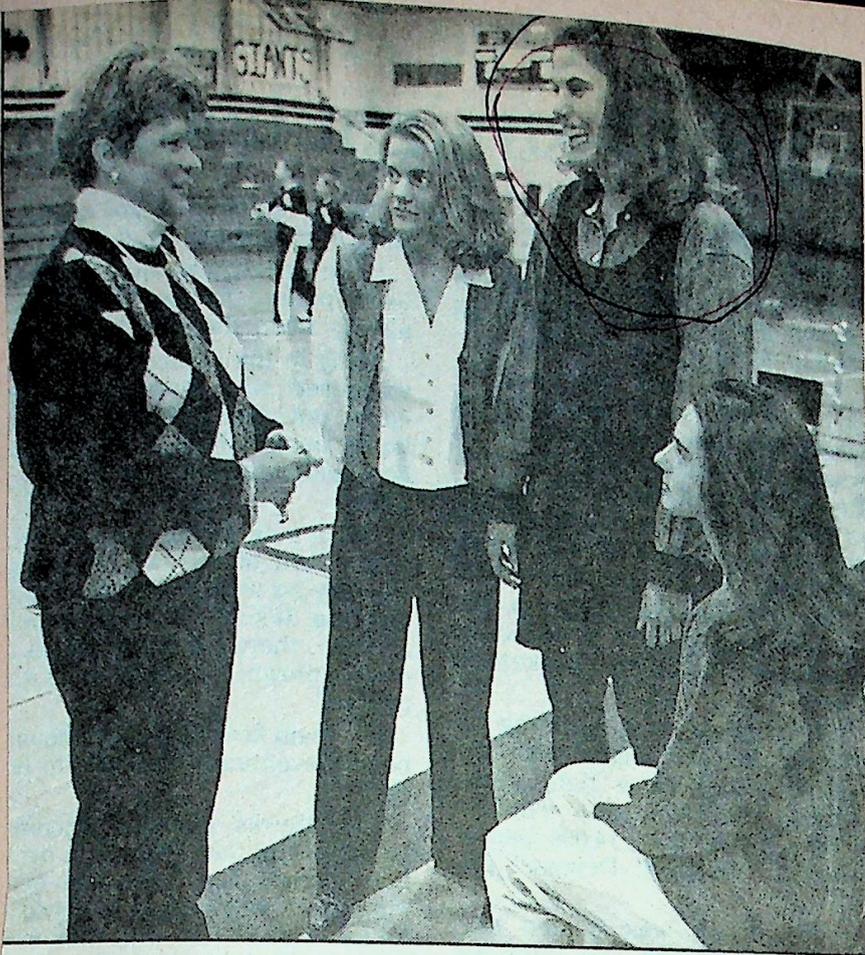
Mary Jo Hoffman (Div. II), Margaretta's Elizabeth Dyer (Div. III) and Chrissie Cole of Old Fort (Div. IV).

Caught on tape

Recording history is Evelyn White, 609 Whittiesey. White was videotaping her granddaughter Shelby Connors, 5, as she was building a snowman Monday.

News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison





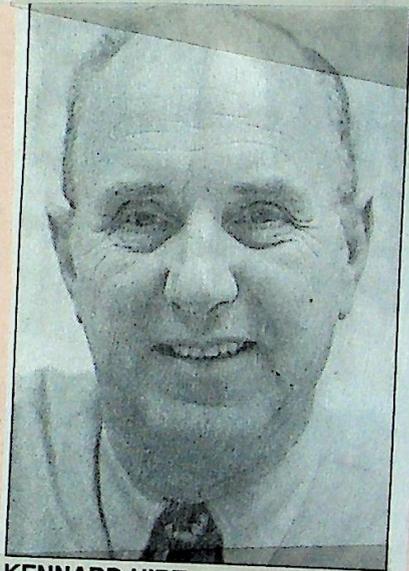
BLADE PHOTO BY DIANE HIRES

Fremont Ross girls basketball coach Sue Wolf talks over some post-practice strategy with Little Giants' tri-captains, from left, Marcy Reinbolt, Michele Smith and Tonya Elder. The team has only one loss this season in Great Lakes League play.



Julie Hirt, Woodard Photographic, Bellevue, won blue ribbons for two prints — "Simple Thoughts" and "Treasures in the Sand" — entered in the Mid East States Affiliated Print Competition in Columbus. Her prints will be sent on to the International Print Competition of the Professional Photographers of America. The Mid East States region covers Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio.

Probation chief retiring



KENNARD HIRT

Sandusky County's chief juvenile probation officer is retiring after more than two decades of work with the county, and one of his counterparts is stepping into the position.

Kennard Hirt, 59, who started with the court as chief probation officer on Feb. 9, 1973, will wrap up his work today.

"I'll miss trying to help young people succeed and have a better life. You can't help but miss something when you've been at it as long as I have. (But) I want to have more time to myself to pursue other interests," Hirt said.



News-Messenger/Jennifer Fernandez

CARL HIRT, left, and Francis Peiffer, organize canned and boxed goods at the Sandusky County Food Pantry. Hirt is vice president of the organization, which has been in operation since 1977. Peiffer is the purchasing agent. The food pantry, 128½ S. Granville Blvd., accepts donations from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Schwartz-Bonnigson

Jim and Marg Schwartz of Lindsey have announced the engagement of their daughter, Jen Schwartz to Ken Bonnigson.

Bonnigson is the son of Henry and Doris Bonnigson of Clyde.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Ross High School and is employed at Aeroquip Inoac as a spray painter and by Baker and Bonnigson Realty and Auctioneers.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Clyde High School and the Reppert School of Auctioneering. He is the co-owner of Baker and Bonnigson Realty and Auctioneers. He is also employed by Green Creek Township.

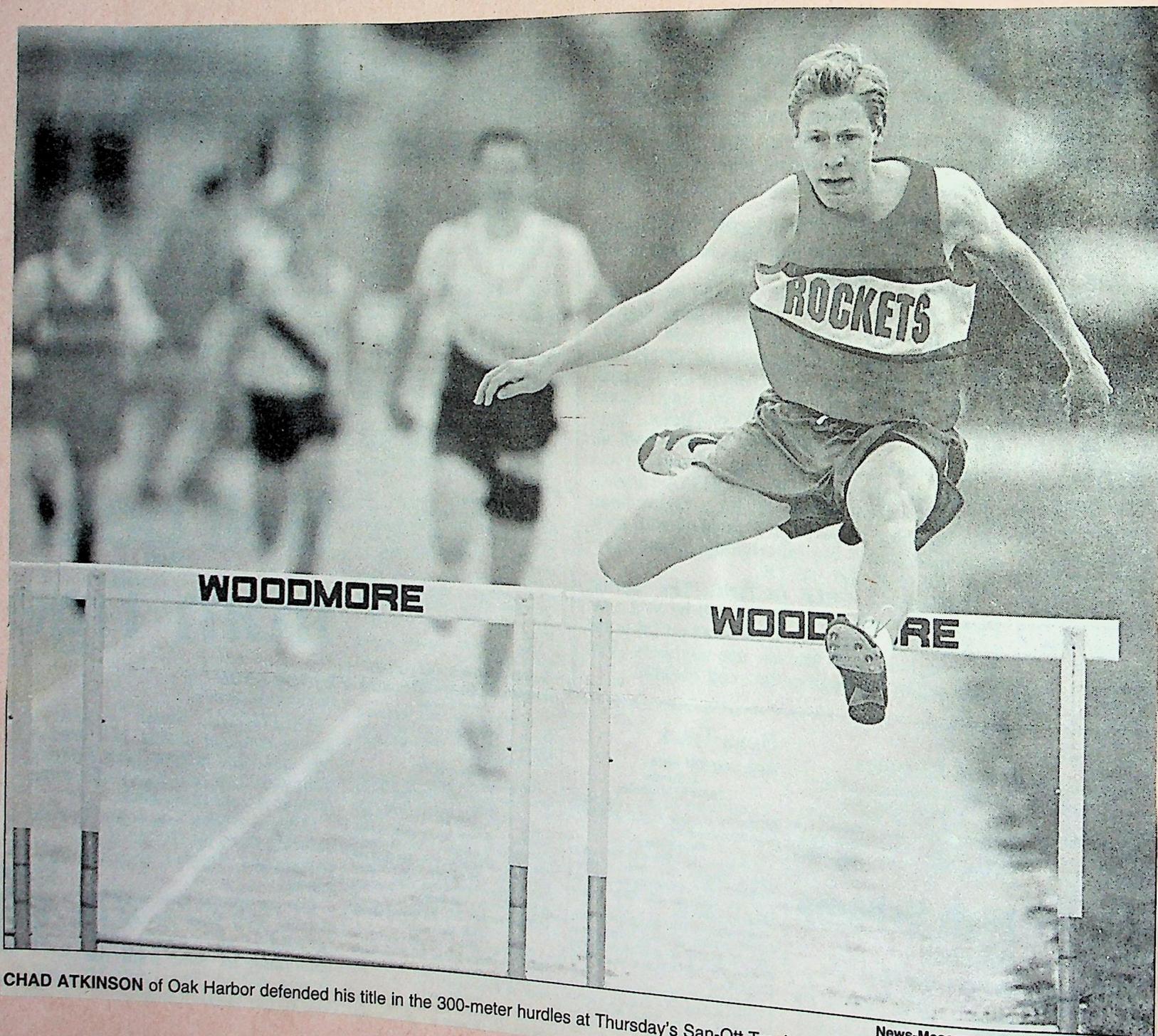
They will be married May 23 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Clyde.



JEN SCHWARTZ and
KEN BONNIGSON



1997



CHAD ATKINSON of Oak Harbor defended his title in the 300-meter hurdles at Thursday's San-Ott Track and Field Meet at Woodmore.

News-Messenger photos/Steven Garner

Smith will be a Viking

By BRIAN SPIESS
Sports editor

Michele Smith, who earned All-Ohio honors this season as Fremont Ross's middle hitter, will commit today to play volleyball for Cleveland State University.

The 6-foot senior will sign, seal and mail the letter today, she said Wednesday in a phone interview from her home.

"I liked the campus and the coach and the team," Smith said of the decision.

"Everything fit together."

She picked Cleveland State over Kent State, Toledo and Bowling Green.

Smith will have all of her tuition paid by the Division I school, something no Ross player under coach Beth Muffler has done.

"She's definitely the best middle hitter I've ever had to coach," said Muffler, who has coached here seven years. "She's quick, she's agile, she's strong, she's intelligent about decisions she has to make. She was an intimidating force for us."

Smith helped the Little Giants to a school-best 22-2 record and an appearance in the district final.

Smith played particularly well in the league games, Muffler said, but may have had her best performance in a triangular tournament with Toledo Bowsher and Bowling Green. With the Little Giants falling behind Bowsher in both games, Smith "single-handedly brought us back with blocks and kills," Muffler said.

But it was her play in club matches on Sundays this winter that caught scouts' attention.

"They liked my height, first of all," Smith said. "And they wanted a young middle hitter because their one middle is a senior."

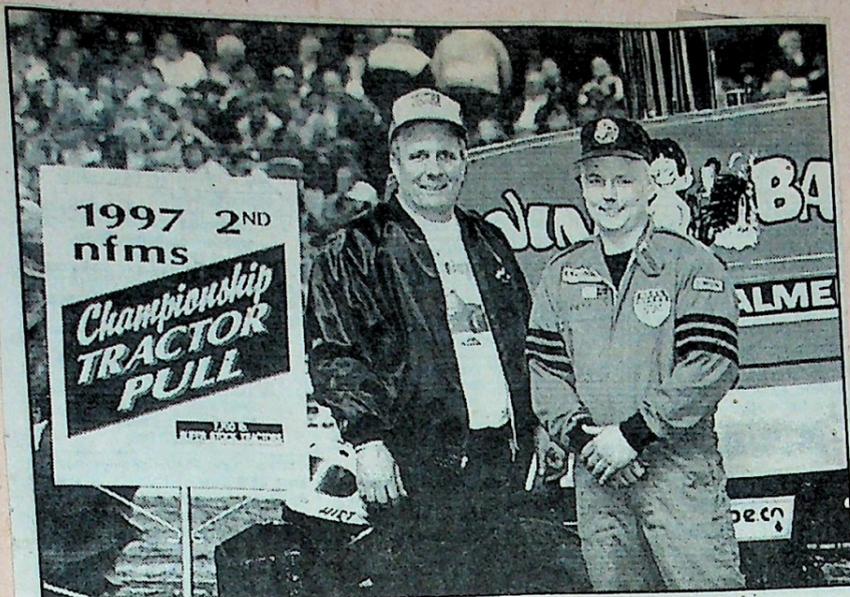
The Vikings play in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference. The possibility of joining friend and 1996 Ross graduate Dawn Zerman at Kent was tempting, Smith said, but a coaching change pushed Smith away from the Golden Flashes.

Smith is the daughter of Ed and Teresa Smith of Fremont and plans to major in social work.

"It was a totally different campus than I've ever seen. I liked it right when I first saw it," Michele Smith said. "I'm glad I made the decision to go there."



SMITH



Castalia's Jeff Hirt (right) was chosen Rookie of the Year by the Ohio State Tractor Pullers Association. He is pictured with father Bill.

Jeff Hirt has been voted 1996 Rookie of the Year by the Ohio State Tractor Pullers Association.

The 17-year-old Hirt, a junior at Margaretta High School, drove Runin' Bare IV, an alcohol-burning Super Stock, to second place at America's premier indoor tractor pull in Freedom Hall at Louisville, Ky.

The event, the 29th annual invitational, was held in February with a purse of nearly \$200,000, which is the largest in America.

"It's a dream come true to be driving among the nation's top 200 drivers," said the young Hirt.

In November at the United States Hot Rod Association World Finals at the Houston Astrodome, Hirt came close to winning again with a runerup effort while facing six of the nation's toughest pullers.

Jeff is the son of Bill and Terrie Hirt, Castalia.

1997

The News-Messenger, Fremont, Ohio, Friday, March 14, 1997

Sprenger siblings in double ceremony May 10 at St. John's

Smith-Sprenger

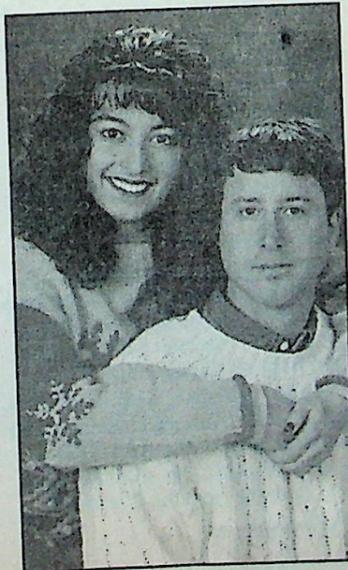
Larry and Judy Rapp, 713 Castalia St., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Danylle L. Smith to Jeremy E. Sprenger.

Sprenger is the son of Rudy and Janice Sprenger, 2609 Cherry Ridge Drive.

The bride-elect is a graduate of the law enforcement program at Terra Community College and is employed as a corrections officer for the Sandusky County Sheriff's Department.

Her fiancé is a 1990 graduate of Ross High School and is employed by Complete Masonry.

They will be married at 4:30 p.m. May 10 at St. John's Lutheran Church in a double ceremony with Angela Sprenger and William Guhn.



DANYLLE SMITH and JEREMY SPRENGER

Prosser-Yahl

Carol Sue (Schepflin) Prosser and John Franklin Yahl were married at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1 at Grace Lutheran Church by the Rev. Joel Remmers.

The bride is the daughter of Vi Schepflin, 570 N. Jackson St. and the late Carl Schepflin.

The groom is the son of Margaret Yahl, 14780 Ohio 66, St. Mary's, and the late Franklin Yahl.

The bride wore an ivory crepe tiara floor-length gown with front side split. The princess style jacket was accented with pearls and sequins over re-embroidered lace with tuxedo-tail flared back.

Her headpiece was a spray of orchids and pearls, and she wore a strand of pearls designed by the groom and given to her on her last birthday.

She carried a European-style bouquet of white dendrobium orchids, phaleanopsis orchids, stephanotis, green eucalyptus and cabbage roses.

The entire altar area was flanked with gold and crystal branched candelabras in memory of the couple's deceased fathers.

Attendants for the bride were Michelle Cara Prosser, daughter of the bride, and Sara Elizabeth and Anna Louise Yahl, daughters of the groom. They wore matching fitted, floor-length gowns of cocoa crepe tiara accented with velvet square necklines and back bows. A matching crepe and velvet stole and opera-length crepe gloves completed their attire. Each attendant carried a European-style bouquet of dendrobium orchids, brown eucalyptus, cattails, bittersweet, and gold glitter ting-ting surrounding a trio of Casablanca white lilies. Best man was Gene Mosher,



CAROL (PROSSER) and JOHN YAHL

friend of the couple.

Groomsmen were Kurt Schepflin Prosser, son of the bride, and Marc Robert Yahl, son of the groom.

The reception was at the Elks Lodge.

They honeymooned at The Greenbriar Resort, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

The bride is a graduate of Ross High School and attended Otterbein College. She graduated from Terra Technical College with an associate's degree in medical secretarial. She is employed at The Standard Sheet Metal and Supply Co. as secretary.

The groom is a graduate of St. Mary's Memorial High School, St. Mary's, Ohio and Indiana University with a bachelor's degree of science in management. He is employed as a district representative with Aid Association for Lutherans.

They will live at 96 Westwood Drive.

1996

Reunions

Hirt

The 80th annual family reunion of the descendants of Casper and Verena Hirt was held Sunday July 21 at Misty Meadows Camp Fire Complex with 215 members and friends attending.

The day started with a golf scramble at 8 a.m. at Sycamore Hills, with 36 golfers participating. Top winners were the team of Rob Miller, T.J. Miller, Tracy Troxel and Vince Troxel.

A potluck lunch was enjoyed at noon after invocation by Lyle Hirt.

Lunch was followed by the program and business meeting with Don Hirt, president in charge. All joined in the Pledge to the Flag, then all joined in singing the now famous "Hirt Song" which was written 30 years ago for the 50th Hirt Reunion.

Six marriages were reported as well as 11 births and five deaths since last year's reunion. Remembered with a moment of silence were Benjamin Wisbon, Grace Halbeisen, Fred Schoff, Oscar Claus and Lyle Halbeisen. The youngest baby present, Morgan Elizabeth, daughter of Jacqueline and Brian Mowry, was given the baby bank.

Bill Hirt reported his twin baby grandchildren, Elizabeth Mary and Collin Phillip Bush, were born Feb. 27 weighing in at a mere 1 lb. 9½ ounces each. They are now home with parents.

Helen Beier reported receiving a phone call from Max Baumann of Stilli, Switzerland. He was with us last year, since he was doing research at the Hayes Library.

Several of our relatives will be traveling to Switzerland in September to celebrate the 550th anniversary of Stilli. Casper Hirt was born in that town Aug. 3, 1820.

Election of officers was held with Jim Lagrou elected president, James (Butch) Diedrich, vice president, and Janet Owen, secretary treasurer. Jeanette Hirt, retiring as secretary treasurer after 32 years was remembered by the group.

A white elephant and craft auction was held with John Hirt as auctioneer.

The afternoon was spent with swimming, volleyball, horseshoes and catching up on the news of all our kinfolk. The evening barbecue was enjoyed closing another great reunion.

The reunion next year will be held at Misty Meadows, Sunday, July 20, 1997.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

AMBER POOLE, 2, watches as her baby brother Dustin gets an oral vaccination from Ann Smith, R.N., right, as their mother Kellie holds the infant. The three-month-old baby was getting his immunizations Friday at the Sandusky County Health Department.



News-Messenger/Paula Wethington

4th-graders at Otis selected today's stories

Students in Jolynn Knox's fourth-grade class at Otis Elementary helped select today's Kids Page stories for this month. Their favorite story was about the I-X Indoor Amusement Park.

Front row, left to right: Corey Chestnutt, Joey Sanders, David Roca, Stephen Fosnight, Kianna Kidd.

Second row: Jeremy Garcia, Tony Hoffman, Bonnie Stevens, Allen Artz, Megan Miller.

Third row: Amy Hirt, Brandon Jones, Andy Berberich, Adam Wilhelm, Angie Frazier, Heather Rook.

Fourth row: Derek Ferguson, Chris Parish, Amber Rosenberger, Leslie Folmer, Katie Jones.

Fremont Ross's win-Smith

Senior has helped 3 teams build successes

By MICHAEL BOSI
Staff writer

Since the fall of 1995, the Fremont Ross volleyball, girls basketball and softball teams have gone a combined 50-11.

Michele Smith has played on each team.

Coincidence? Very unlikely.

Smith, a senior, is all about winning, as she showed in Ross's 58-49 season-opening victory over Huron Saturday. Her 19 points and 17 rebounds made her The News-Messenger's first athlete of the week for the young winter season.

But no matter what the season, Smith stands tall — literally.

"I'm 6 feet tall, I better get some rebounds," Smith said. "I better get *something* done up there."

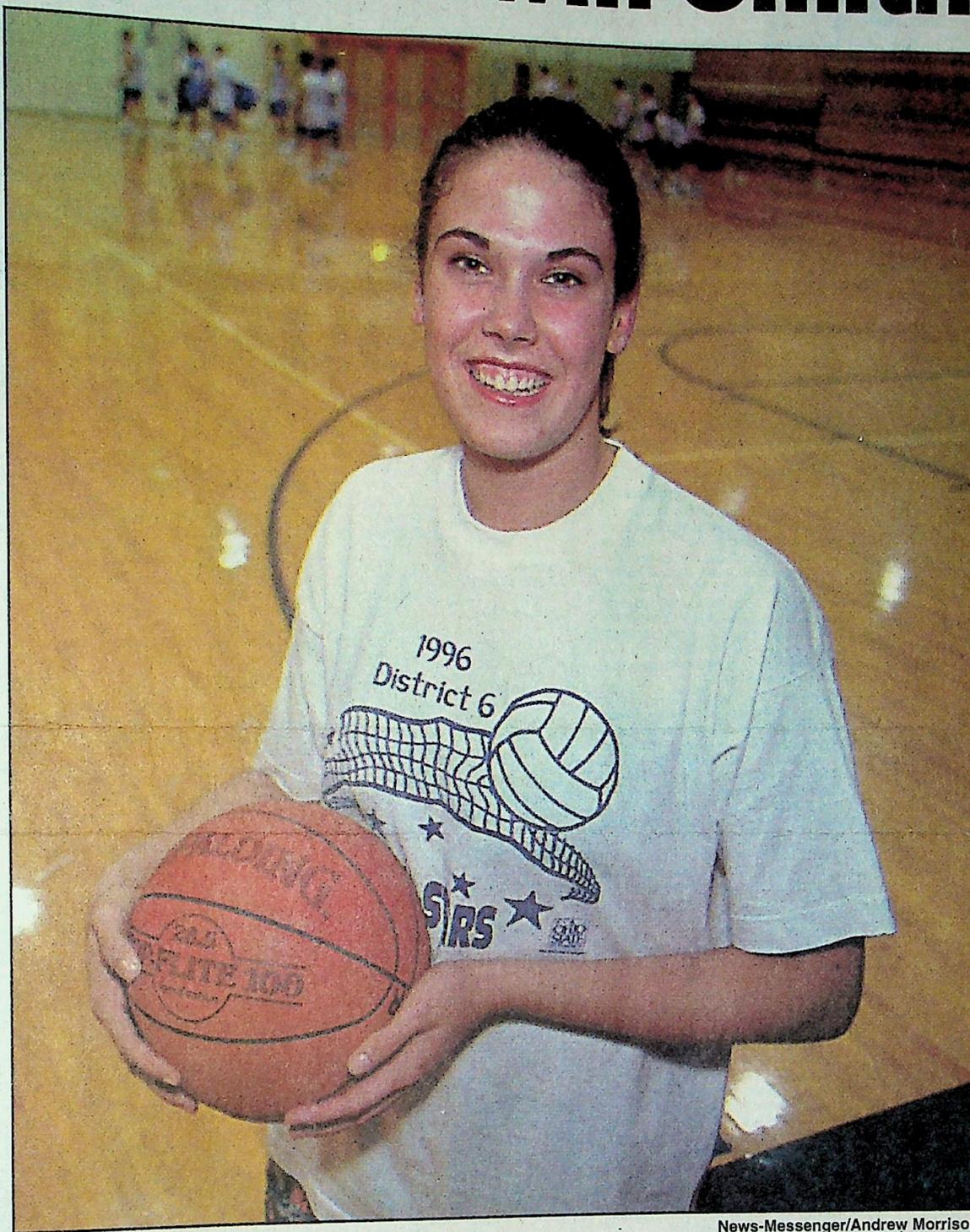
Her girls basketball role is clear as the glass she routinely pulls rebounds off of, especially with the Little Giants having lost a bevy of talented seniors, including star point guard and best friend Dawn Zerman.

"We're expecting her to be a real leader out there," said head coach Sue Wolf. "She hit the boards hard (Saturday) and that's what we're expecting from her every game, and I'm hoping she can score a few more points than that for us."

Smith's 7-of-11 shooting against the Tigers Saturday showed Wolf she's already improved from a year ago, when she platooned with Dena Schepflin and averaged 5.7 points and 6 rebounds per game.

"Every year (Smith) has gotten to be a better player, and that's what you expect out of someone like her," said Wolf. "You've got to improve, and I think this year she's really stepping it up because of the kids we lost last year."

"Last year, her and Dena Schepflin split time at the post, and this year it's all on her. She's the one now that's leading the other kids, (junior) Mysti Recny and (sophomore) Natasha Watson. She's the one



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MICHELE SMITH has taken a leadership role for the Ross basketball team for 1996-97.

showing them how to go."

Losing her buddy wasn't exactly the way Smith wanted to become top dog, however.

"Dawn was just a leader, no matter what we did," Smith said. "She knew what was going to happen and she had a great eye for the game. But the five starters this year, we know we all have to do something and we accepted that, and we're all doing our jobs."

This newfound team concept should benefit Smith and those around her.

"Last year, coach put on my evaluation that I'm supposed to get 25 points a game and 12 rebounds per game, so that (team focus) puts off some pressure," said Smith, who openly

admits volleyball comes first in her heart and that she would like nothing more than to join Zerman at Kent State University.

A first baseman in softball and an All-Ohio middle hitter in volleyball, Smith is used to drawing extra attention from opposing teams.

"I don't think about it. I don't even notice it half the time," she said.

She did, however, notice when she began to stand head and shoulders above those around her.

"Eighth grade going into ninth grade I grew a lot," she said. "I used to be like, short, I don't know what happened."

Whatever it was, it's made her a winner.

Michele Smith profile

School: Fremont Ross.

Grade: Senior.

Sports: Volleyball (middle hitter), basketball (center), softball (first base).

Hobbies: Anything that has to do with sports, including watching best friend Dawn Zerman play basketball at Kent State.

Family: Father, Ed; Mother, Teresa; Brother, Ryan, 20 (University of Toledo, baseball).

She gives time, energy and blood

By SHARI L. VELEBA
News-Messenger correspondent

The American Red Cross Sandusky County Chapter and its long-time volunteer Irene Brindley have something to celebrate - they've both become octogenarians.

The local chapter, and Brindley both had their 80th birthdays April 6. The chapter will have a public open house from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, to commemorate the chapter's longevity as well as that of its blood services coordinator. Cake and other treats will be served.

Brindley, of Fremont, has volunteered for the local chapter as a board member since 1975, she said. Her interest in blood services developed out of the loss of her son, Allan Brindley, who was killed in a 1970 auto-train accident.

"When I retired, I felt I was going to do some type of civic work she said. "I figured that the thing for me to do was something which I was interested in."

In 1982, Brindley became coordinator of bloodmobiles in Sandusky County. A blood donor herself, she's given nine gallons and four units.

"I feel that as long as I am able to give blood and see that other people are able to give blood, it is there when people need it," she said.

The blood processed by the Red Cross is healthful and disease-free, Brindley added. She also pointed out that it is safe to donate blood because sterile needles are used for each person.

"They're not used for anybody else, and they are destroyed as soon as they are taken from (a) person's arm," she said.

Donors go through a mini health exam prior to blood donation, with history taken and blood tested for iron levels, she said. Such things as exposure to contagious diseases disqualifies a person for blood donation. Tattoos can also cause a delay.

"If you have had a tattoo, you've got to wait a year before you can give blood," Brindley added.

One thing the local chapter needs is younger volunteers, she said. Many of the current volunteers, like Brindley, have been doing the work for sometime and are older.

"We have to get younger people involved," she said. "If we don't, it'll have to go from being a volunteer organization (to) a professional organization. We don't want that. We want it to be



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

IRENE BRINDLEY takes the temperature of Teresa Hinkle, 640 Stone Street, during a Red Cross Blood Mobile at the Eagles Club Thursday. Brindley has been volunteering for more than 20 years.

as much volunteer as we can."

Dick Oakley, executive director of the local chapter, said Brindley's dedicated efforts for the chapter are special.

"She has tackled the blood program," he said. "She has an overall view of what makes it work, and how it works."

"She just dots all her I's and crosses all her T's," he added.

The local chapter has from 400 to 450 regular volunteers who donate varying amounts of their time toward blood collection, safety classes, and disaster services, Oakley said.

Last year, total volunteer hours numbered between 15,000 and 16,000, and 4,000 units of blood were collected in the county during about 40 blood drives.

Brindley's commitment to volunteerism shines through in her enjoyment of what she does, Oakley said.

"She takes pride in this work, and she's willing to do it," he said.

OUR NEIGHBOR: IRENE BRINDLEY

AGE: 80

ADDRESS: 1020 Woodland Ave., Fremont

FAMILY: Husband, Morton; Sons, Kenneth, Fremont, Calif.; Dennis, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; Daughter, Janet, Monroe, Mich. Five grandchildren.

OCCUPATION: Retired in 1982 as the secretary at Hayes United Methodist Church. Also worked at the Ames Co. in Fremont after graduating from high school until 1968.

EDUCATION: Graduated from Ross High in 1935.

HOBBIES: Brindley likes to garden and has traveled extensively.

DEDICATED: Elected to board of Red Cross in 1975, and was on Bloodmobiles in Sandusky County. She shares her birthday, April 6, 1917, with the formation of the local chapter. Many chapters across the nation are also celebrating their 80th birthdays, because they were formed in reaction to World War I and the needs of soldiers at the time.

VOLUNTEER TODAY: Brindley said the local Red Cross chapter is in great need of younger volunteers because many of the older volunteers have been doing so for many years. If you want to volunteer with the Red Cross, contact executive director Dick Oakley at 332-5574. The Chapter is located at 1245 Napoleon St.



In froher Runde: Im «Blauen Engel» zu Rüfenach liessen sich's die «Amerika-Stiller» wohl sein. Leta Baumann, die Enkelin von Kaspar Hirt (2. von links), ist mit 90 Jahren die Älteste. Foto: TV

Auch die «Amerika-Stiller» feiern den 550. Geburtstag von Stilli mit

Kaspar Hirts Nachfahren besuchen ihre alte Heimat

Heute beherrschen in Stilli die Ortsbürger das Feld, denn es ist im Festprogramm «550 Jahre Stilli» Ortsbürgertag angesagt. Unter den 240 gemeldeten Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmern reisten deren 13 aus den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika an, es sind Nachkommen des 1848 in die USA ausgewanderten Kaspar Hirt. Die unternehmungslustige Schar ist bereits seit Donnerstag auf Erkundungstour in der alten Heimat.

RUDOLF WERNLI

Die Eisenbahn und der Bau von Brücken liessen Mitte des letzten Jahrhunderts die Erwerbsquellen von Stillis Bevölkerung versiegen. Zur Überquerung von Flüssen brauchte es keine Fähre mehr, Waren konnten billiger und schneller auf Schienen transportiert werden als auf dem Wasser. Bittere Armut machte sich breit, viele mussten aus ihren Dörfern ausziehen, um anderswo Arbeit zu finden. Einer dieser Betroffenen war auch der Stiller Kaspar Hirt, der 1848 auszog, um sein Glück an dem grossen Teich in Amerika zu finden.

Die gebratenen Tauben flogen ihm allerdings nicht einfach in den Mund: Zunächst versuchte er sich als Goldgräber in Kalifornien, dann in Australien. Letzteres erwies sich als Flop, weshalb er wieder in die USA zurückkehrte. In Riley im Bundesstaat Ohio liess er sich nieder, um Land zu bewirtschaften. Seinem Ruf folgten weitere Personen aus Stilli, Villigen und anderen Gemeinden der Umgebung, um sich in Ohio anzusiedeln. Kaspar Hirt seinerseits heiratete die mitgereiste Verena (Fanny) Vogt aus Villigen und hatte mit ihr neun Kinder.

Max Baumanns «Werbung»

Rund 600 Seelen zählt die Nachkommenschaft mittlerweile, die sich inzwischen über das ganze Land zerstreut hat. In Riley oder Fremont allerdings befindet sich immer noch gewissermassen die «Zentrale», wo auch die Familiengeschichte nachgeführt wird und wo auch die regelmässigen Familienzusammenkünfte stattfinden, zu denen jeweils rund 400 Leute aus ganz USA anreisen.

An der letzten «Reunion» war nun 1985 auch Max Baumann dabei und erzählte von bevorstehenden 550-Jahr-Feyer und erwähnte dabei, wie «schön es wäre, wenn auch aus Amerika am Ortsbürgertag die einen oder anderen mitwirken würden...» Auch Gemeindeamann Arnold Lehner machte bei seinem USA-Trip Werbung für die Sache.

blau die Spezialitäten im «Blauen Engel» zu Rüfenach. Unverwundlich und bester Dinge war dabei Leta Louise Baumann, die mittlerweile 90jährige Enkelin von Kaspar Hirt (in Amerika «Hört» ausgesprochen). Sie habe ihren Grossvater nicht mehr gekannt, erklärt sie. Sie sei als jüngste zur Welt gekommen, und ihr Grossvater sei schon vor ihrer Geburt gestorben. Sie lebt heute in einer Alterssiedlung ausserhalb von San Francisco, unweit vom Domizil ihres Sohnes Alan, der mit seiner Frau Mary Anne die Reise in die Schweiz ebenfalls ange-treten hat. Sie ist nicht zum erstenmal hier, sondern hat das Dorf ihres Ahnherrn schon dreimal besucht.

Mary mit der doppelten Verwandtschaft

Es war wirksame Werbung, denn es meldeten sich 13 Nachfahren aus Übersee zum Ortsbürgertag an. Am Donnerstag versammelte sich die unternehmungslustige Schar im Laufe des Tages in Stilli, wo sie von Max Baumann und Arnold Lehner in Obhut genommen wurden. Am Abend genossen sie in rustikaler, gemüthlicher Umge-

Aufgepickt

Was haben die Kistler aus USA und Brugg gemeinsam? – Bözen

Was haben die Kistler aus der USA und jene aus Brugg gemeinsam? Richtig, beide heissen Kistler. Aber es kam noch was zutage: Mary Hutchinson-Kistler aus Riley/Ohio, ebenfalls zum Stamme der Stiller Hirt gehörend, nimmt – wie dem Hauptartikel zu entnehmen ist – an den Jubiläumsfestlichkeiten in Stilli teil. Beim fröhlichen Abend im «Blauen Engel» in Rüfenach stiess sie nun auf den ebenfalls daseibst anwesenden Brugger Ernst Kistler.

Weil ihre Kistler-Vorfahren ursprünglich aus Gallenkirch ge-

besonderen Art hat Mary Hutchinson, zu bieten. Sie ist übrigens eine geborene Kistler von Gallenkirch. Sie ist dem Auswandererhepaar Hirt-Vogt gleich zweifach verwandt: Ihre Grossmutter war eine geborene Vogt und die Schwester von Kaspar Hirts Gattin, ihr Urgrossvater auf der «Hirt-Seite» war Kaspar Hirts Bruder. «Ich bin die Schweizerische von allen», freut sie sich.

«Die Schweiz ist ein Paradies» 80jährig, aber sehr sportlich und unternehmungslustig ist Richard «Dick» Hirt aus Riley («West-Riley, the best Riley»). Bevor der Urenkel Kaspar Hirts nach Stilli kam, genoss er eine Reise mit dem «Glacier Express». Er habe schönsten Wetter gehabt, und das Matterhorn sei so klar vor ihm gestanden, einfach «splendid», schwärmte er. Er ist zum erstenmal in der Schweiz und hat sich damit einen langgehegten Wunsch erfüllt: «Wein es einen Garten Eden gibt, dann ist die Schweiz sein Zentrum», so seine Liebeserklärung an die Heimat seiner Ahnen.

In Fremont, in der Nachbarstadt, wohnt Bruce Neal Hirt, ebenfalls ein Urenkel des Auswanderers. Er ist Deputy-Sheriff («Ich habe meistens mit Verbrechensbekämpfung zu tun») und kam zum viertenmal nach Stilli. Erstmals besuchte er das Aar-dorf vor 14 Jahren. «Ich besuchte damals einen Freund in Deutschland und habe mir in den Kopf gesetzt, bei dieser Gelegenheit das Geburtshaus meines Urgrossvaters zu sehen.» Die Farm seines Ururahnen besuchte nicht mehr. Sie musste einem Chemiewerk weichen. «Greatgrandfather would rotate in his grave – Urgrossvater würde sich im Grabe umdrehen», meinen Bruce und Dick Hirt unisono.

Gestern lockte der strahlende Spätsommertag die «muntere Schar in die Umgebung. Betreut von Max Baumann und Arnold Lehner, besichtigten die «Amerika-Stiller» Brugg, das Amphitheater Vindonissa und die Klosterkirche Königsfelden, bevor sie dann auch noch ein altes «Castle» besuchen konnten, die Habsburg. Am Abend begann auch für sie das Fest, das heute mit dem Ortsbürgertag seine Fortsetzung findet und an dem sich die Stiller aus Übersee sicherlich gut amüsieren werden: «We're shure, we'll have a great time!»



«Kistler meets Kistler»: Mary Hutchinson-Kistler aus Riley/Ohio und Ernst Kistler aus Brugg/Aargau entdecken Gemeinsamkeiten. Foto: TV



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

RETIRED FREMONT CARL HIRT said he enjoys helping out at The Sandusky County Food Pantry because, "you never know, if the time comes, maybe we're going to be in the boat (and need) help from some place."

Retirement becomes a time to help

Carl Hirt has been volunteering at the local food pantry since 1983

By SHARI L. VELEBA

Correspondent to The News-Messenger

Because he first grew up on a farm where crops were grown, and later grew cabbage for the local sauerkraut company, Carl Hirt has never been far from the important role food plays in people's lives.

It's not surprising, then, that he chose to volunteer his time at The Sandusky County Food Pantry after he retired in 1983.

Hirt, 77, can be found at the pantry, located at 128 S. Granville Blvd., Fremont, just about every day for several hours.

"If you believe in church or anything like that, you know you're supposed to help feed the people," he said.

The work at the pantry is fun, too, he said.

"It's stuff we like to do," he added. "You never know, if the time comes, maybe we're going to be in the boat (and need) help from some place."

Even more than the fun he has keeping busy in his retirement years, working at the Sandusky County Food Pantry makes Hirt feel good, too, he said.

"When you see some of the people come in, they've got tears in their eyes. They say, 'Well, I never thought I'd have to go someplace and ask for help.' Some of them can't thank you enough for what you give them," he said.

The pantry has a staff of about 45 volunteers who range in age from their 30s to their 80s. Because most are older, the group is always seeking new helpers.

Hirt said he believes there are younger potential volunteers out there who would also enjoy helping others.

"A lot of them say they have nothing to do. Well, we could use them out here," he said.

The volunteer workers do such tasks as stock shelves and

fill bags with food as people visit the pantry, keep the pantry clean and monitor what products are needed.

Of course, the pantry has operating rules, Hirt said.

Those who need food from the pantry need to present pantry workers with a referral from the county's Department of Human Services, Hirt said. A referral from a church organization or another non-profit community assistance organization will also be recognized, he added.

This is to prevent duplication of services from other organizations, he said.

Each visitor to the pantry can receive one week's worth of groceries, which includes three meals a day, Hirt said.

Food pantry workers fill bags of food for recipients rather than have the recipients take what they like.

"We give them a little bit of everything," Hirt said.

The many shelves in the pantry are filled with basic foodstuffs, many of which are donated. The pantry buys a lot of the food items with monetary donations it receives, as well.

In the summer, local gardeners even donate seasonal produce, as well. And the same foods are not always available, Hirt said.

Local business has helped out with day-old baked goods, and meat producers also donate products. The shelves also hold some important kitchen and bath items like soaps and paper products.

Statistics tell the tale of increased need through the years and how the Sandusky County Food Pantry has been there to help.

In 1977, its first year, the organization gave out enough food for 13,777 meals.

In 1996, food for 75,000 meals was distributed, Hirt said.

CARL HIRT

AGE: 77

ADDRESS: 432 S. Buchanan St., Fremont

FAMILY: Wife, Jerry; Son, Don, and daughter, Connie Diekman, Lindsey; Step-children, Larry Ackerman and Linda Stine, Fremont; Christine Tabbert, Rocky Ridge; Janet Owen, Findlay.

OCCUPATION: Retired from the Fremont Kraut Company. Worked there from 1961 to 1983, first in farming and then in maintenance.

FREMONT FOOD PANTRY: Has been involved in the Sandusky County Food Pantry since 1984, after he retired. Hirt was vice president of the group for a year. This year, he became its president.

PANTRY HISTORY: Begun in 1977 the Sandusky County Food Pantry was first housed at Rudy's Restaurant on Fremont's east side and eventually relocated to Napoleon Street. In 1990, it moved again to its current site, 1281 S. Granville Blvd., Fremont.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Want to volunteer for the Sandusky County Food Pantry? Contact Hirt at the Pantry at 334-8158. Send monetary donations to: The Sandusky County Food Pantry, P.O. Box 445, Fremont, Ohio 43420.

Since July, it has received 150 referrals for food.

"Sandusky County residents should get a gold crown for their support" of the pantry, Hirt said.

Three-year pantry volunteer Helen Diekman, of Fremont, said Hirt works hard to help those who need food.

"It's a big responsibility, but he handles it well," she said.

The food pantry is currently collecting holiday food items for the upcoming Christmas season, Hirt said.

The Sandusky County Food Pantry is open from 1-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is closed on holidays. Contact the pantry at 334-8158 to ask about receiving or donating food or to volunteer. Send monetary donations to The Sandusky County Food Pantry, P.O. Box 445, Fremont, Ohio 43420.

Sisters are county fair veterans

By SHARI L. VELEBA
News-Messenger correspondent

Ruth (Hirt) Peffly and Grace (Hirt) Zilles, sisters who grew up in Riley Township, absolutely, positively, undeniably love the Sandusky County Fair.

Even when they both got stung on the fairgrounds for 50 cents each by a character they call "a quack — a medicine man" in the 1920s, they still didn't shed their love for the fair.

They laugh about the incident now, which took place on their "big fair day" — Thursday.

"Fifty cents was our limit for the day," said Peffly. "We weren't on the grounds 10 minutes, and Grace and I stopped at (the stand of) some old quack" hawking fountain pens.

"We'd never seen a fountain pen before, didn't know what a fountain pen was," Peffly, 86, added.

"He was a good talker," Zilles, 87, said. "We spent our money."

"Come to find out," Peffly said, "the pens didn't have any ink (holders) in them. They were fakes. We got took."

When their father learned of their plight, he offered no additional fair money, Peffly said.

"He told us we learned a lesson," they said.

Peffly has attended every fair from as far back as she can remember, except in 1943, when she had to go to Virginia with her husband, who was in the Air Force.

Zilles and Peffly were the founders of the Riley Buckeyes 4-H group, which met for the first time in their parents' Riley Township home with 18 other girls.

The sewing projects the girls did — including embroidering underwear, pillows, and towels, plus learning knitting, and crocheting, were entered in the Sandusky County Fair.

"It gave us something to do," said Zilles. "It taught us skills."

The only fair rides at the time were the Ferris wheel and the merry-go-round, the sisters said.

"And boy, if you had enough money, or if you could get a ride on that, it was remarkable," Peffly said. Rides for the fair then cost about 5 or 10 cents.

Neither sister could recall how much admission to the fair cost then.

When it came to their 4-H projects, Peffly and Zilles are unsure how their items were judged, but they have faint recollections of receiving some sort of prize — like a ribbon.

In the 1920s, the current Exhibitor's Building was known to the girls as the Educational Hall, where they displayed their projects.

4-H participation has stayed in the family throughout the generations, with all of Zilles' daughters taking part, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Zilles' great-grandson, Jeffrey Martin, of Lindsey, won a Best of Show at the Ohio State Fair recently for a welding project.

The Sandusky County fairgrounds itself



News-Messenger/Steven Garner

RUTH PEFFLY (left) and sister Grace Zilles have attended the Sandusky County Fair since they were kids.

in the 1920s was "beautiful, beautiful," said the pair.

"Trees, a beautiful horse track there, (and) people came from all around to see it," Zilles said.

In the earlier years of the fair, farmers would take their entire herds to be judged, rather than a select few animals, she added.

In the 1920s, people could drive onto the fairgrounds, park where they wanted and oftentimes would spread a blanket under a tree to enjoy a picnic lunch from home.

"Our dad would stop (at a shop in downtown Fremont) and buy some baloney and bananas," Zilles said. "He would add it to our picnic basket."

At that time, too, farm machinery displays were prevalent at the fair, and auto dealers would even bring cars from their lots so everyone could take a look.

The sisters would love to see "more family involvement" at the fair, although they said 4-H has done a lot to promote that, including getting city kids involved with projects.

The sisters agreed that the fair has continued to improve each and every year since those earlier days and that it continues to be a great and fun time.

BIOGRAPHIES

Ruth Peffly, Grace Zilles

AGES: Ruth, 86; Grace, 87.

ADDRESSES: Ruth, Fremont; Grace, Riley Township.

FAMILY: The sisters come from a family of 10 children. Ruth's husband, Paul, is deceased. Grace's husband is Walter, and they have five children: Gwen Dunster of Lima, Nancy Leiser of Lindsey, Shirley Brodbelt of Baltimore, Md., Barbara Cole, Ukiah, Calif., and Mary Manifold, Dayton. Grace's daughter Kay is deceased.

OCCUPATIONS: Both women are retired and were school teachers who taught in one-room school houses in the county: Ruth at the Garvin and Schoch schools; Grace at the Stokes and Chipewa schools. Ruth also was a supervisor at the Howard Zink Corp. for more than 25 years and taught in Riley Twp. Grace also taught second grade in Riley and York Townships.

EDUCATION: Ruth, Ross High School, 1929; Grace, Ross High School, 1927. Both attended Bowling Green University.

1997

Schwartz-Bonnigson

Jen Schwartz of Lindsey and Ken Bonnigson of Clyde were married at 6:30 p.m. May 23 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Clyde by the Rev. George Losiewicz.

The bride is the daughter of Jim and Marg Schwartz of Lindsey.

The groom's parents are Henry and Doris Bonnigson of Clyde.

The bride, escorted by her father, wore a candlelight matte satin gown featuring an embroidered lace with sequins and pearls on the princess bodice, sleeves, and hem. The back was accented with a bow and a full cathedral-length train.

Her headpiece was made of pearls and a fingertip veil.

She carried a cascade bouquet of peach roses, mini-carnations, yellow daisies, purple statice, baby's breath, eucalyptus, and ivy.

Matron of honor was Lynne Eisenhauer, friend of the couple. She wore a teal colored dress with a round neckline, cap sleeves, and a pleated organza border. It also had a bow and sash at the center back.

She carried a cascade of peach and white mini-carnations, yellow daisies, purple statice, baby's breath, and eucalyptus.

Bridesmaids were Jackie Mowry, sister of the bride; Mary Yager, aunt of the bride; and Grace Leichty, sister of the groom. They were attired in dresses identical to the matron of honor.

Flower girls were Lyndsey



JEN (SCHWARTZ) and KEN BONNIGSON

Eisenhauer, friend of the couple; and Morgan Mowry, niece of the bride. They wore ivory silk dresses, trimmed with lace at the bodice and sleeves. The waistlines flowed into scalloped skirts and were tied with ribbons and rosettes. They carried a bas-

ket of mixed spring flowers. Best man was Jerry Stults, friend of the couple.

Groomsmen were Dean Smith and Bill Baker, both friends of the couple; and Brad Frisch, nephew of the groom.

The reception was at Ole Zim's Wagon Shed.

The bride is a graduate of Ross High School and is employed at Aeroquip Inoac and Baker and Bonnigson Realty and Auctioneers.

The groom is a graduate of Clyde High School and the Repert School of Auctioneering. He is co-owner of Baker and Bonnigson Realty and Auctioneers. He is also employed by Green Creek Township.

They will live in rural Clyde.

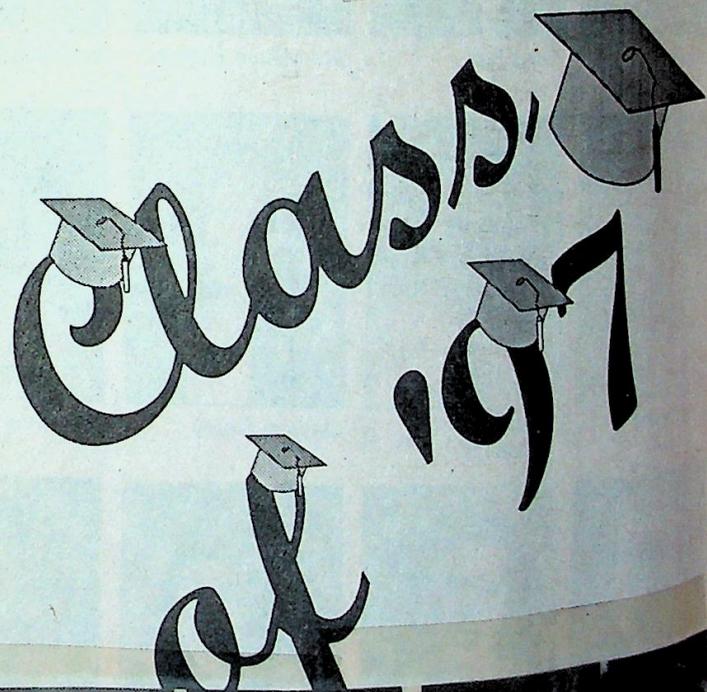
No Auctions This Week

Congratulations to Ken Bonnigson & Jen Swartz for finally tying the knot on Friday, May 23, 1997 from the Staff at Baker Bonnigson Realty & Auctioneers!



THE 1996-97 BELLEVUE CHEERLEADERS — FRONT ROW (left to right): Cindy Brooks, Cheryl Netcher. SECOND ROW: Erica Horn, Molly Martin, Tara Schultz. BACK ROW: Theresa Hirt, Erica Dietzal, Missie Claus.

Graduation Ross High School



Erica Hirt



Rachel Pert



Derek Thiessen



Michele Smith

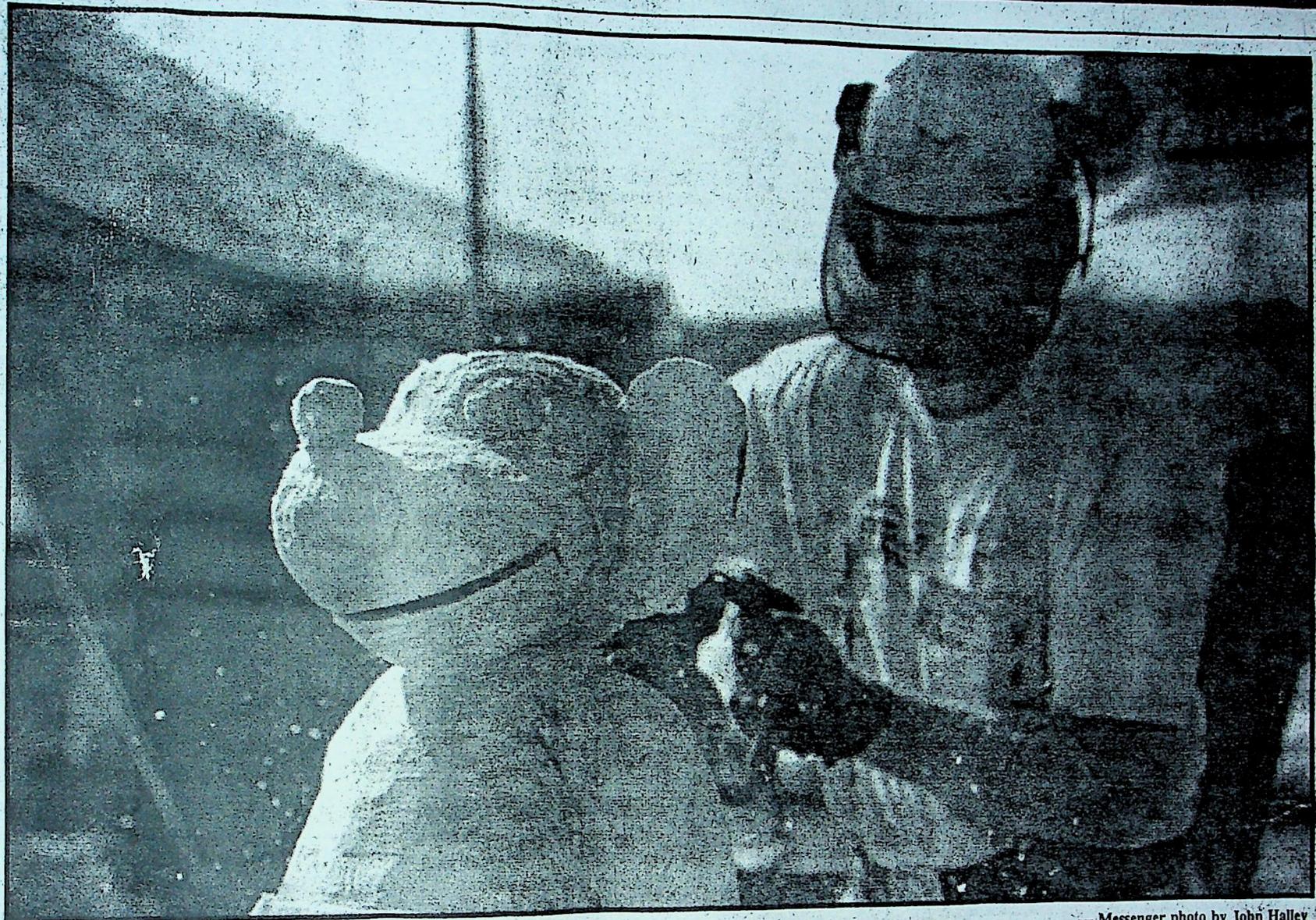
Sunday Messenger

Oct 1997

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— Messenger photo by John Halley

FAMOUS MOUSE — Mickey Mouse makes an appearance Friday at the Paul Bunyan

Show under the skillful hand of chainsaw sculptor Chuck Schepflin of Fremont. The fes-

tival at Hocking College in Nelsonville continues with activities this morning and afternoon.

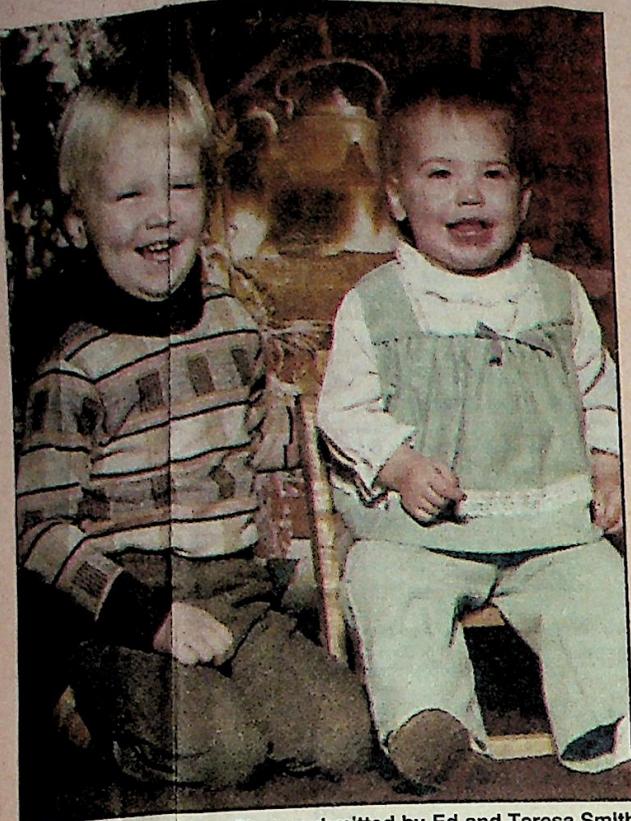


Photo submitted by Ed and Teresa Smith

More than 20 years before Michele Smith blocked a volleyball spike (top left), her parents decided they would send their children to Fremont Ross. Above, Michele Smith (on right) is shown with older brother Ryan around the time of Michele's first birthday.

Smith still has at least another four years of school before she gets shot out of a cannon and into the real world. But she knows social work is in her future.

"I've always wanted to do that," Smith said. "I'm one of those people — my parents don't agree with it — that gets phone calls at 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the morning some nights and it's always about a problem.

"I've just always loved to help people. It could be about boyfriends, it could be about parents, anything. I love to help them."

The girls sports programs at Fremont Ross will agree. She's helped them more than enough.

MARRIAGES 1996-1997

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- JENNIFER YUNDT - RODNEY CONOVER - AUGUST 17, 1996 PAGE 58
- MARY ATKINSON - JOHN YAGER - SEPTEMBER 6, 1996 PAGE 38
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- MILDRED HUSS - SEPTEMBER 23, 1996 PAGE 18

<u>EXPENSES:</u>	STAMPS	\$104.00	<u>INCOME:</u>	DUES, BEER, POP	\$410.04
	THE FAIR	139.25		50 - 50	150.00
	BENCHMARK	227.04	(ANONYMOUS)	REPAY FOR PENCILS	227.04
	MISTY MEADOWS	350.00		AUCTION	556.96
(LINDA MARTIN)	SPECIAL GIFTS	15.00			-----
(LIFE GUARD)	NATASHA SIEBERT	28.00			\$1,344.04
	GREAT SCOT	222.46			
(J. HIRT)	MISCELLANEOUS	32.00			
	SERVICE CHARGES	2.70			

		\$1,120.45			

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$1,710.00
 INCOME 1996 1,344.04

 3,054.04
 EXPENSES 1,120.45

 BALANCE 1996 \$1933.59

LOCAL

Monday, March 2, 1998

The News-Messenger, Fremont, Ohio

Associate Editor Roy Wilhelm, ext.144

David Smith explores youths' options

By SHARI L. VELEBA
News-Messenger correspondent

As adviser of the Sandusky County EMS Explorer's Post 2770, Deputy David R. Smith said he enjoys helping teens learn about the emergency medical services profession.

In the late 1980s, emergency medical professionals thought it would be a good idea to have a mechanism in place whereby youths could study that line of work.

Because Smith, a former Boy Scout leader, had emergency medical experience, training and the interest to advise the group, he got the go-ahead to seek members. That was 10 years ago, and he's been the adviser ever since.

The experience has been rewarding.

"Just the satisfaction of seeing them do something with their lives," he says. "People say so many negative things about kids these days, I like saying something good about them."

One of those good things is that many of his Explorers have gone on to become nurses, paramedics and doctors, he said.

"(Explorers) gives them a start in life and (to) find out what they want to do," Smith says. "They didn't have stuff like that when I was a kid. It feels good to help a kid out."

The current group of county EMS Explorers includes four boys and five girls who train with paramedics in first aid, CPR and related skills. This year, Smith has a major goal for the group: certification so members can initiate emergency medical care until paramedics arrive on a scene. That requires about 43 hours of paramedic-led training.

"This summer I want to get everyone certified as First Responders," Smith says.

Sandusky County Sheriff David Gangwer said he is pleased with all of Smith's volunteer efforts guiding the Explorers.

"I think Dave does a fantastic job," he says. "It's very much appreciated."

In February, the EMS Explorers began a ride-along program on EMS runs to observe paramedics as they work, Smith says.

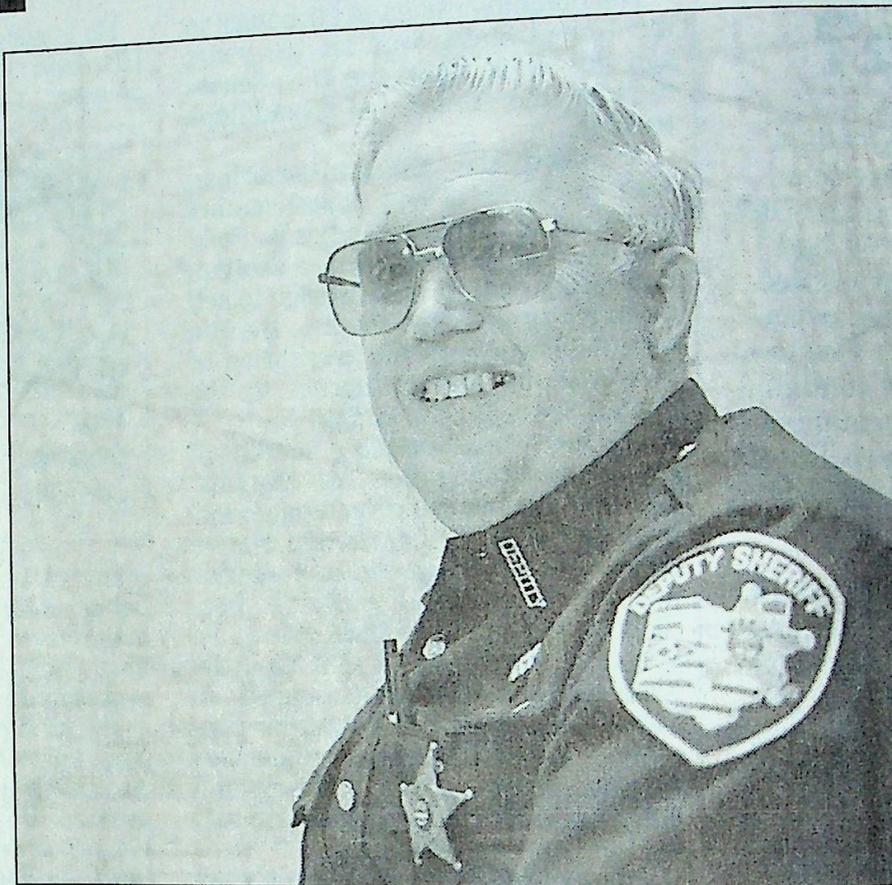
The EMS Explorers also are on hand to assist people at several events like the Clyde Country Fair, the S.C.R.A.P. Festival, Cub Scout and Boy Scout events and the Sandusky County Fair, where each Explorer puts in between 750 and 1,200 hours of volunteer time helping visitors with first aid needs.

"They're out there in everyday life moving around and it's not costing the community anything. It's going to help the community in the long run because these kids are planning out their career early, finding out what they want to do," Smith says.

The group also travels to Port Clinton High School each year to assist those needing first aid attention during the Multiple Sclerosis Society's 150 "Bike to the Bay."

Post members meet in the basement of the sheriff's department for about an hour the first and third Tuesday of each month. Dues are \$10 per year.

Members are now considering attending an area conference and a national convention of Explorers. This year, the national event will be in Washington, D.C., and members need to raise funds to attend.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

SANDUSKY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY DAVID SMITH says his work with Explorers helps kids learn about different possible careers. "They didn't have stuff like that when I was a kid. It feels good to help a kid out."

In Northwest Ohio, there are 1,200 Explorers looking into several professions including fire fighting, architecture, engineering, food service, law enforcement, outdoor education and natural history, says Doug Nelson, Northwest Ohio Explorer executive.

"Dave is a highly dedicated volunteer. He runs a good program," Nelson says. "The kids who are in his program seem to have a lot of respect for him. He's truly making a difference in their lives."

Mindy Stetler, an 18-year-old Clyde High School graduate in her fifth Explorer year, says she

enjoys being post captain.

"It's a real challenge," she says. "I like that most of all. It's a great way to help the community, and gives you a great aspect of what (an EMS) job expects of you."

"It's prepared me to be able to take on this career," she adds. "It's something I want to do for the rest of my life."

She says Smith is a big reason her Explorer experience has been so positive.

"(Smith's) a man you can look up to. He's always willing to help anyone in need," Stetler says.

OUR NEIGHBOR BIOGRAPHY

DAVID R. SMITH

AGE: 48

ADDRESS: 445 N. Sandusky county Road 204, Fremont

FAMILY: Mother, Jean Smith; daughter, Kelly Wammes. Three grandchildren.

OCCUPATION: Deputy/communications officer, Sandusky County Sheriff's Department since 1989. He was an EMS dispatcher for eight years before that.

EDUCATION: Ross High School, 1967. Attended Terra Technical College for law enforcement studies. Certified as a law enforcement officer through the Ohio Peace officer's Academy, 1976.

HOBBIES: Enjoys reading a variety of books and watching television.

EXPLORE AND LEARN: Youths ages 14 to 21 can join an Explorer post and learn about a profession that interests them. To join the Sandusky County EMS Explorers, contact Smith at the Sandusky County Sheriff's Department, 332-2613. To get additional information about the other professions for which Explorer posts exist, call Doug Nelson, Northwest Ohio Explorer executive, at 1-800-241-7293.

FUND-RAISING DANCE: To raise money to purchase better radios and additional training, the Sandusky County EMS Explorers will have a dance for seventh and eighth grade youths from 7 to 10 p.m. March 13 at the Green Springs American Legion. DJ music will be provided by Boy Scout leader Charlie Horn. Food will be available to purchase. Tickets are \$2 per person or \$3 per couple.

No place like Home Show

1998



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

RENA KEKIC of Marblehead surveys the goods at the Classic Kitchen and Bath display at the Sandusky County Home Show Friday.

Coordinator: Attendance up despite wet final day

By ALICIA MARTIN
Staff writer

Cheryl Mackey needn't have worried about the steady rain showers that drenched Fremont Sunday.

Despite the woeful weather, she and more than 30 exhibitors at the 22nd annual Sandusky County Builders Association Home Show were on their way to their biggest crowds ever.

"We've done wonderfully," said Mackey, chief coordinator for the show.

"Attendance has really been up. Last year, we only got about 2,500, but we've easily had at least 4,000 this year.

"I've been doing this show for about the last five years and this has got to be the most people I've seen ever seen come out."

The free show at Vanguard

from actual construction and contracting work to lighting, plumbing, pools, carpeting and even financial help for home improvements, the show featured door prizes donated by the exhibitors and, of course, food vendors.

First-time exhibitor, HealthCraft Inc. of Tampa, Fla., maker of non-stick cookware of the same name, captivated its audiences of 15 or so spectators

Vocational School and Tech Center opened Friday and continued Saturday with ideal weather for bringing people out. Sunday was another matter, said Mackey.

"Saturday's weather was perfect and I was worried about today's (Sunday's) rain a little bit," she said. "But it really hasn't slowed down the flow of people at all."

That suited exhibitors fine.

Representatives from Michael N. Miller Quality Builders of Helena, one of the show's veteran exhibitors, said their booth had a steady stream of visitors all weekend.

"We've been pretty busy all three days," said Didi Lee, who helped run the company booth. "We mostly answer people's questions about remodeling

See BEST, A7

and potential customers.

"It's as beneficial for us as it is for them," Schepflin said. "They get to inquire about the things that they are interested in and get a professional opinion, but we also get a lot of information about what's on the customer's minds and what kinds of ideas they have as well as what kinds of goods and services they are interested in."

Walter E. Zilles

Sept. 24, 1909 — April 17, 1998

Walter E. Zilles, 88, formerly of Sandusky County Road 232, died Friday afternoon at Bethesda Care Center.

He was a lifelong resident of Riley Township, born there to John and Louise (Hetrick) Zilles. He married Grace Louise Hirt on Nov. 22, 1930, in Toledo. She survives.

A Ross High School graduate, Mr. Zilles was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, the Sandusky County Farm Bureau, The Riley Grange and Nifty Neighbors Farm Bureau Council. He was an active past member of the Fremont Lions Club.

Mr. Zilles was a farmer and retired from the Erie Ordinance Depot as a supervisor.

Also surviving are daughters Gwen Dunster of Lima, Nancy Leiser of Lindsey, Shirley Brodbelt of Timonium, Md., Barbara Cole of Ukiah, Calif., and Mary Manifold of Dayton; 18 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren. Brothers Wilbur, Orville, George and Earl Zilles, and sisters Edna Stout, Elizabeth Hirt and Hilda Isch are deceased.

Services: 11 a.m. Monday at Grace Lutheran Church, where visitation will be from 9 a.m. until the time of services.

Burial: Oakwood Cemetery.

Memorials: To the church.

Arrangements were made by the Nopper-Karlovetz Mortuary.

Deaths

Rita (Hirt) Halbert

Dec. 23, 1912 — May 16, 1998

Rita "Robin" (Hirt) Halbert, 85, of Woodside Trail, Toledo, died Saturday at Lakepart Nursing Home in Sylvania.

She was born in Fremont to John H. and Mary Magdalen (Fisher) Gfell and graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1930. She was the first editor-in-chief of the school's publication, The Voice.

She married Jess W. Hirt on Dec. 23, 1933, and he died on July 1, 1969. She then married Donald Halbert on Dec. 9, 1974, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He survives.

Mrs. Halbert was the society editor for the Fremont Daily News until November 1947. She then worked for Blue Cross of Northwest Ohio for 23 years as its Fremont office manager and field representative until 1970. She retired from the Sandusky County Commissioners office in 1978.

She was a member of Christ the King Church in Toledo and its Altar Rosary Society. She was also a member of the Fremont Emblem Club 156, Dendarah Court 10, Ladies Oriental Shrine and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Valley of Toledo.

Survivors include sons Reynold J. and Kennard L. Hirt, both of Fremont; stepsons Donald R. Halbert of Westchester, Pa., David L. Halbert of Temperance, Mich., and Daniel E. Halbert of Littleton, Colo.; stepdaughters Patricia Wilson of Toledo and Kathleen Manol of Dumfries, Va.; six grandchildren, 10 stepgrandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and sisters Avaleen Eberly of Fort Belvior, Va., and Adeline Reineck of Fremont. Brothers Joseph, Carl, James, and Robert Gfell and sisters Crescent Snyder, Leone Hurley, and Elizabeth Montague are deceased.

Visitation: 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Boyer-Van Wormer-Scott Funeral Home, Toledo, and 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, Wonderly-Horvath Funeral Home. Vigil services are 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Wonderly-Horvath Funeral Home.

Burial: St. Joseph Cemetery.

Memorials: Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Perrysburg, or Sacred Heart Catholic Church.



RITA HALBERT

John Halbeisen

1998
DESERT HOT SPRINGS, Calif. — John P. Halbeisen, 63, of Desert Hot Springs, Calif., formerly of Shelton, died Friday, Oct. 3, 1997.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Shelton United Methodist Church. The Rev. Charles Spence will officiate.

Mr. Halbeisen was born on Sept. 24, 1934, at Litchfield to John F. and Grace (Evans) Halbeisen. He attended school in Shelton and graduated from Shelton High School in 1952.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1955 to 1964. After his discharge, the family lived in Shelton, Cairo and California. He worked as a painter and in maintenance before retiring in 1996.

Survivors include one daughter, Laura Mason of Tucson, Ariz.; three sons, Greg Halbeisen of Bullhead City, Ariz., John R. Halbeisen of Pomona, Calif., and Joe Halbeisen of Palm Desert, Calif.; five grandchildren; two brothers, Lawrence C. Halbeisen of Murrieta, Calif., and George E. Halbeisen of Lake St. Louis, Mo.; and one sister, Helen M. Smith of Shelton.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

E. Pauline Hirt

BELLEVUE — E. Pauline Hirt, 73, East Maple St., Clyde, died unexpectedly Thursday, May 28, 1998, at Bellevue Hospital.

She was born April 6, 1925, in Clyde. She was a 1943 graduate of Clyde High School and worked 42 combined years between Whitacker Drug, Jennigns Pharmacy and Seaman's Pharmacy. She served on the Clyde Board of Elections for over 25 years and was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clyde.

She is survived by her husband, Warren Hint, with whom she would have celebrated 50 years June 12; one daughter, Susan Collins of Lubbock, Texas; two sons, Thomas D. Hirt of Blacksburg, Va., and Timothy S. Hirt of Zionsville, Ind.; one sister, Mrs.

James (Kathrynn) Ritchey of and three brothers, John Br of Fremont, Ronald Brutcher sett, Va., and Robert Brutcher Monroeville.

She was preceded in death by brother, Doyle L. Brutcher; and sons John and Ethel (M) Brutcher.

Friends may call from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday at Mit Auxter Funeral Home, 218 S. 1 St., Clyde, where services will 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. The Rev. Ste Wood will officiate.

Interment will be at McPher Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, W. Forest St., Clyde.

Jay-Lauretta

Mary Elizabeth Jay and Daniel Vincent Lauretta were married at 2 p.m. Nov. 8 at Grace Lutheran Church by the Rev. Joel Remmers.

The bride is the daughter of William and Sandra Jay, 318 N. Wayne St.

The groom's parents are Paul Lauretta, 5948 S. Parkway, Kentwood, Mich., and Elizabeth Lauretta, 1446 44th St. SW, Wyoming, Mich.

The bride wore a gown of re-embroidered alencon lace. The entire gown was embellished with sequins and pearls.

The bodice was designed with a V-neckline and long straight lily point sleeves.

A trimmed lace bustle accented the back waist and a detachable satin cathedral-length train repeated the same lace, pearls and sequins.

Her headpiece was a sequin and pearl crown with fingertip illusion veiling.

She carried a Victorian style hand bouquet of raspberry ice roses, pink and fuchsia miniature carnations, rosario alstramaria and gypsophila with streamers of



MARY (JAY) and DANIEL LAURETTA

1997

white, fuchsia and pink ribbons.

Maid of honor was Kay Zienta, friend of the bride. She wore a floor-length midnight blue velvet gown with a round front and back neckline and short kimono sleeves. Wise satin sashes from the front princess seams tied into a back bow. She carried a single white long stem red rose with

foliage and gypsophila tied with a white satin bow.

Bridesmaids were Laura Withrow, sister of the bride, and Stephanie Rhineberger and Traci Sparks, friends of the bride. They were attired identical to the maid of honor.

Best man was William Herold, friend of the groom.

Groomsmen were Mark Withrow and Kevin Rhineberger, friends of the groom, and Steve Jay, brother of the bride.

Ushers were Peter Brown and Tyler Lecceadone, friends of the groom.

The reception was at P-K's Banquet Hall.

They honeymooned in the Pocono Mountains.

The bride is a 1990 graduate of Ross High School and a 1993 graduate of Ashland University. She is employed by WZZM-TV in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The groom is a 1984 graduate of Grand Rapids Central High School and a 1987 graduate of The School of Communication and Arts. He is also employed by WZZM-TV in Grand Rapids, Mich.

ASHLAND — Loree Hirt, a senior at Danbury High School, has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship at Ashland University based on her academic accomplishments.

She is president of chorus, and a member of Key Club, and National Honor Society. She is also a member of Science Club and Ski Club. She is the daughter of Dave and Jan Hirt.

The family of Clara Morgan Diekman, born Dec. 20, 1997, weighing 2-pounds 2-ounces, want to thank everyone who remembered her and her family while she was in the hospital. Clara, who now weighs 4 pounds, 11-ounces, is home and doing well. Her parents are formerly of the Fremont area and she still has grandparents here.

Craig and Jeanette (Bauer) Diekman, 8117 Martindale Lane Charlotte, NC 28216

April 24 — Lori (Klausz) and John Halsey Jr., 517 W. Main St., Bellevue, an 8-pound, 2-ounce daughter, Hannah Besse, at 2:54 p.m. She was 20½ inches long. Local grandparents are Phil and Connie Klausz and Mary Klausz of Fremont and John and Iva Halsey of Bellevue.

Port Clinton man tractor pull champ

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Jeff Hirt of Port Clinton won a trophy and \$1,500 for taking first place in the 7,200 lb. Super Stock Tractor Pull at the 1998 National Farm Machinery Show's championship tractor pull in

Louisville, Ky.

The 30th annual championship tractor pull took place in conjunction with the National Farm Machinery Show Feb. 11-14 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center's Freedom Hall.

Jan. 30 — Chris and Denice (Quaintance) Hirt, Bellevue, a 6-pound, 5-ounce daughter, Margaret Alyse, at 2:23 a.m., at Bellevue Hospital. She was 19½ inches long. Local grandparents are Jim and Dorothy Quaintance and Ken and Marge Hirt, all of Fremont. Great-grandparents are Don and Rita Halbert of Toledo, formerly of Fremont

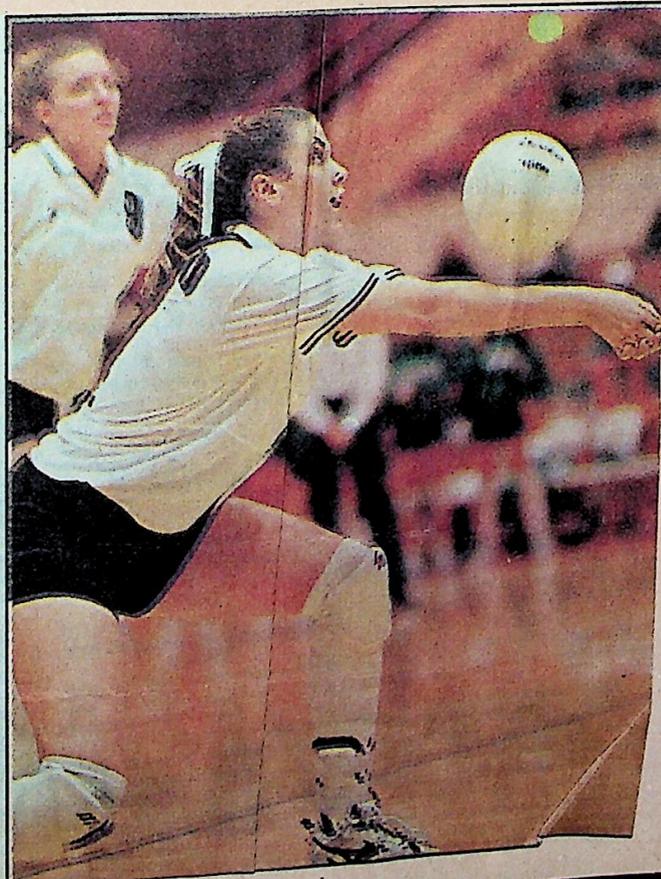
Feb. 16 — Jennifer (Yundt) and Rodney W. Conover, Kearney, Mo., a 5-pound, 5-ounce daughter, Cheyenne Lynette, at 9:51 p.m. She was 19 inches long. Local grandparents are Dan Yundt of Fremont Gloria Genzman of Orlando, Fla. Great-grandparents are Glen and Catherine Genzman of Oak Harbor.

Dec. 20 — Jeanette (Bauer) and Craig Diekman, Charlotte, N.C., a 2-pound, 2-ounce daughter, Clara Morgan, at 2:25 p.m. at Presbyterian Hospital. She was 14½ inches long. Local grandparents are Ed and Judy Bauer of Gibsonburg and Carol and Connie Diekman of Lindsay. Great-grandparents are Mildred Baker of Gibsonburg and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Diekman and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hirt, all of Fremont.

MICHELE SMITH, a

freshman middle hitter for Cleveland State, passes the ball during a loss Friday night at Bowling Green. Smith is a graduate of Fremont Ross.

News-Messenger Steven Garner



1998

Tim is Joe and Nancy Leiser's Grandson - Kim Leiser Love is his Mother

Tim Love

Defensive End/Tight End 6-4 240 4.7 Chippewa Lake, Ohio
Cloverleaf High School, Lodi, Ohio

Way back when he was in seventh grade, northern Ohio's

Tim Love made a decisive announcement to his family.

"He said he wanted to play for the West Virginia Mountaineers," his mother, Kim, remembers. "He's always liked them, just by watching them on TV."

Love liked his favorites even better after visiting WVU last year.

"Their facilities," he says, "were like the best I saw. I really liked the coaching staff; they were really upfront with me and my parents. They didn't try to play any games."

Where Love will play at West

Virginia remains a mystery. In high school, he excelled on

offense and defense. As a senior, from his defensive end position he recorded 124 tackles with nine sacks; as a tight end he caught 17 passes for 224 yards and three

touchdowns.

Though Mountaineer coaches apparently are unsure whether he will play offense or defense, Love says he has been assured of an opportunity to be the team's long-snapper -- possibly even this fall.

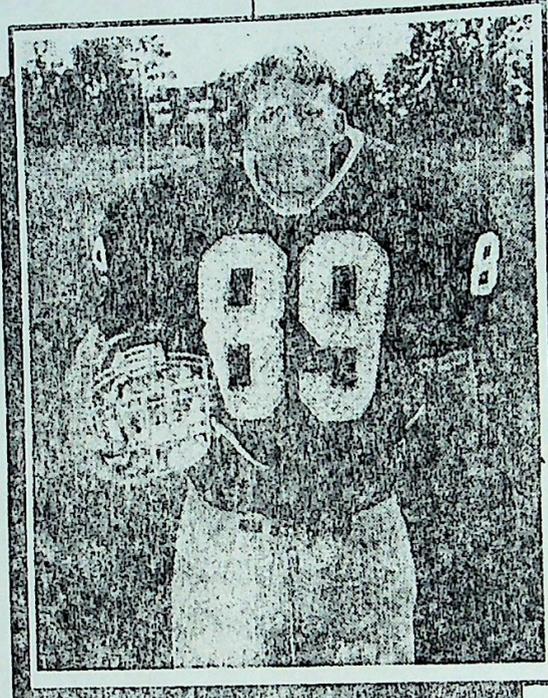
"I think Tim has a chance to be an outstanding player," high school coach Bobby Lake says.

"He's a hard worker. He's got good family support. People at West Virginia are going to like him.

"Tim's athletic for a big guy; he covered receivers for us as our drop end. And he's a tough nut. He can stop the run and put pressure on the quarterback." On the other hand, Lake said Love needs to develop his strength. Along those lines, Love said WVU coaches told him they wanted him to gain 10 to 15 pounds.

Love made honorable mention on the All-Ohio Division II (second-largest schools) team, but his greatest honor came when he was selected to play in this summer's prestigious Big 33 game matching Ohio and Pennsylvania's top outgoing high school stars.

Wisconsin and Kentucky showed interest, but WVU beat Eastern Michigan, Louisville, Ohio, Toledo and Youngstown State for Love. As signing date approached, Michigan State entered the picture and offered a scholarship, but Love kept his earlier commitment to WVU.



LOVE'S LIKES

Athlete: Emmitt Smith
Childhood Team: Florida State
Music: "Anything"

Hobbies: Drawing sketches, playing basketball
Major: Computer science
Sports Thrill: Earning a college scholarship

June 6 — Tracy and Cheryl Troxel, 113 Walnut St., Oak Harbor, an 8-pound, 7-ounce daughter, Meredith Grace, at Firelands Community Hospital, Sandusky. She was 21 inches long. Local grandparents are Gilbert and Marge Rumball, Port Clinton.

Providence School of Nursing



Jennifer Hirt from Sandusky received The Leadership Award. This is presented to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and abilities.

Tower's first shot a special one

By KRISTOPHER BARRY WEISS
Staff Writer

SANDUSKY — Today isn't just opening day at Cedar Point. It's also Mother's Day, so run out and buy a gift before Mom wakes up.

It's also Sean Hirt's 14th birthday.

One of the Bellevue boy's presents is being one of the first to ride Power Tower, Cedar Point's new 300-foot scream machine. His ride comes courtesy of the American Red Cross Firelands Chapter and Ford Visteon.

Hirt was born with a condition that keeps him from fighting infection. His family is moving to a warmer climate in hopes of

improving Hirt's condition so this may be the last year he can "get to the Point" without taking a vacation.

The Red Cross is holding a fund-raiser by selling tickets to be one of the first 48 Power Tower experiments — er, riders — for a minimum bid of \$75. Bidders have bought 20 tickets — the highest bid was \$305 — and raised \$2,500 which will be used for flood relief at Crystal Rock and Whites Landing, said Ron Rude, executive director of the United Way agency.

DANBURY — The Lions Club of the Marblehead Peninsula selected Loree Hirt as May Student of the Month from Danbury High School. She was president of the Laker Chorus and a member of FHA, Key Club, Science Club, Ski Club and National Honor Society.

She plans to major in political science at Ashland University, where she has a \$6,000 renewable scholarship. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Hirt, Danbury Township.

*Leta Baumann
92 yrs. young*



Loree Hirt

Fremont woman had early zest for writing

BY JOSHUA BENTON
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Rita "Robin" Halbert, a mother and worker with an interest in journalism, died Saturday at Lake Park Nursing Home, Sylvania. She was 85.

Born in 1912 in Fremont, she attended St. Joseph High School. There she developed an early interest in writing, and served as the first editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, The Voice.

After graduating, she joined the Fremont Daily News, where she was the society editor.

"She enjoyed meeting the public and writing columns on current events," said son Kenneth Hirt.

After leaving the Daily News, she began 23 years working for Blue Cross of Northwest Ohio, managing its Fremont office and going into the field to make sales.

"She was a one-woman team," said son Reynold Hirt. "She liked helping people with any questions they had."

She left Blue Cross in 1970, then worked several years as a secretary for the Sandusky County commissioners.

Between work and raising a family, Mrs. Halbert had little time for hobbies, but always had time to help others in need, her sons said.

"I guess being of service to others was a hobby for her," son Reynold said. "She focused outside of herself. If someone needed something, she was very energetic in helping."

"That was her prime interest in life, helping other people," Kenneth said.

She was active in several volunteer organizations, including Den-darah Court of the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Valley of Toledo, and the Fremont Emblem Club, in which she held several local and state offices.

She was a member of Christ the King Church, Toledo, and its Altar-Rosary society.

She married twice: in 1933 to Jess Hirt, who died in 1969, and in 1974 to Donald Halbert.

Surviving are her husband, Donald; two sons, Reynold and Kenneth Hirt; three stepsons, Donald, David, and Daniel Halbert; two stepdaughters, Patricia Wilson and Kathleen Manoli; two sisters, Avelene Eberly and Adeline Reineck; six grandchildren; 10 step-grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The body will be at the Boyer-Van Womert-Scott Funeral Home, 5055 Secor Rd., from 6 to 9 p.m. tomorrow, and at the Wonderly-Horvath Funeral Home, Fremont, after 2 p.m. Wednesday with a Scripture service at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Funeral services will be at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Fremont, at 11 a.m. Thursday. The family requests tributes to Hospice of Northwest Ohio or Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Genzman's goal was putting Fremont on map, friend says

1969 Ross grad helped investigate Iran-Contra, assassinations

By ROBERTA REDFERN
Staff writer

When former Fremont resident Robert Genzman came to visit his home town, Bill Anderson preferred to relax with his closest friend by playing some basketball or socializing over a beer.

But when Genzman talked, oh, the stories he could tell, said Anderson 47, of Elmore.

"Bob was going to end up putting Fremont more on the map," he said. "Everybody around here is aware of the Brudzinskis and the Lytles (through NFL football). This guy was doing something in a different endeavor."



ROBERT GENZMAN

The 1969 Fremont Ross High School valedictorian never got the chance to obtain his goal of

serving as a United States legislator or his lifelong dream of becoming an ambassador, Anderson said.

Diagnosed with kidney cancer in June 1997, Genzman, Central Florida's top federal prosecutor who assisted in the investigations of both the Iran-Contra affair and a House of Representative probe into assassinations — died at his Orlando home May 12, at the age of 46.

"He had an agenda. He was in the thick of things, trying to make a difference," Anderson said.

Genzman, who grew up on Arch Street and delivered newspapers as a young boy, attended Hayes Elementary School, leaving Fremont shortly after his 1969 graduation from Ross High School, where he served as valedictorian of his class of more than 400 students.

Genzman's parents, Glendon and Catherine Genzman, were

both teachers in the Fremont Public School system.

Following his graduation from law school at Cornell University in 1977, Genzman served as staff counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which probed the 1963 killing of President Kennedy.

Genzman wrote and edited substantial portions of the committee's analysis titled "The Final Assassination Report."

Genzman also interviewed and investigated key players connected to covert arms sales to Iran in the mid-1980s, including defense secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Anderson said he remembered vividly Genzman's interest in government and the law.

"We grew up in a time where there were a lot of problems — Vietnam, race riots, drug problems, Watergate. (Genzman) saw through all of that and still wanted to become involved," Anderson said.

EX-U.S.

Attorney Genzman dies at 45

ORLANDO — The man who brought peace back to the U.S. Attorney's Office after the tumultuous tenure of Bob Merkle is dead.

By JEFF STIDHAM
Of The Tampa Tribune

Robert W. Genzman, the former U.S. Attorney who headed the Tampa federal office from 1988 until 1993, died Tuesday morning after a yearlong battle with kidney cancer. He was 45.

Genzman, who earned the loyalty of federal prosecutors following the aggressive tenure of his predecessor, Robert Merkle, was remembered Tuesday as a gentleman who tried to do the right thing without hurting anyone else. "I would have followed him anywhere," said Greg Kehoe, Genzman's first assistant, who now is prosecuting war criminals at The Hague, Netherlands. "I always knew he was trying to do the right thing whether I agreed with him or not. He brought a level of decency and pride to his office."

Genzman took a quiet, carrot-and-stick approach to the most powerful prosecutor's job in Central Florida. "That way we still have the stick," Genzman once told a reporter. Genzman successfully prosecuted the first cases against the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), winning praise for a victory in the nation's drug wars and a warning to banks. The January 1990 agreement in which two subsidiaries of the bank pleaded guilty to laundering \$14 million in cocaine profits was the nation's largest bank forfeiture. Five BCCI bankers and a Colombian businessman were found guilty of money laundering.

Critics said later that Genzman had been hoodwinked into inaction by the bank's attorneys and should have been tougher. Former Attorney General Ed- win Meese tapped the then 36-year-old Genzman to be U.S. Attorney in August 1988. Meese by-passed Merkle's handpicked successor, Joseph Magri. Merkle and then-U.S. Rep. Connie Mack were seeking the Republican senatorial nomination. After Mack was elected, he recommended that Genzman remain the post permanently. On Tuesday, Mack mourned Genzman as a man who served his profession "with honor, integrity and distinction."

Magri remembered Genzman as "a bright, personable and capable young man. It's too bad he died young." Genzman learned last year that he had renal cancer, said long-



5-13-98
Robert W. Genzman served "with honor, integrity and distinction," said Sen. Connie Mack.

time friend and colleague, Frank Hall.

"He had never been sick a day in his life," said Hall. "Bob did everything right. He didn't smoke. He didn't drink. He ate right. He had salad while you had a burger. He was a great athlete."

At one point Genzman played on three basketball leagues and three volleyball leagues at the same time. In warmer weather he retreated to the softball diamond. "He was the most moral man I've ever known," Hall said. "He never made decisions without

“I would have followed him anywhere.”

Greg Kehoe
Genzman's first assistant

thinking about the effect of those decisions on other people. I loved the guy." Chief U.S. District Judge Elizabeth Korachewich said she watched Genzman mature as a lawyer.

"He was ever the gentleman," she recalled. "I remember him as a law clerk, as an assistant U.S. attorney and then as U.S. attorney. It was a very good thing to watch a person go through so many different phases in the court family."

Genzman resigned in early 1993 after Attorney General Janet Reno called for the resignation of all acting U.S. attorneys. He then went into private practice in Orlando with the law firm Alkerman Senterfit & Eidson. Genzman is survived by his wife, Martha, and 5-year-old twins, Jackie and Rob.

MARRIAGES 1997 - 1998

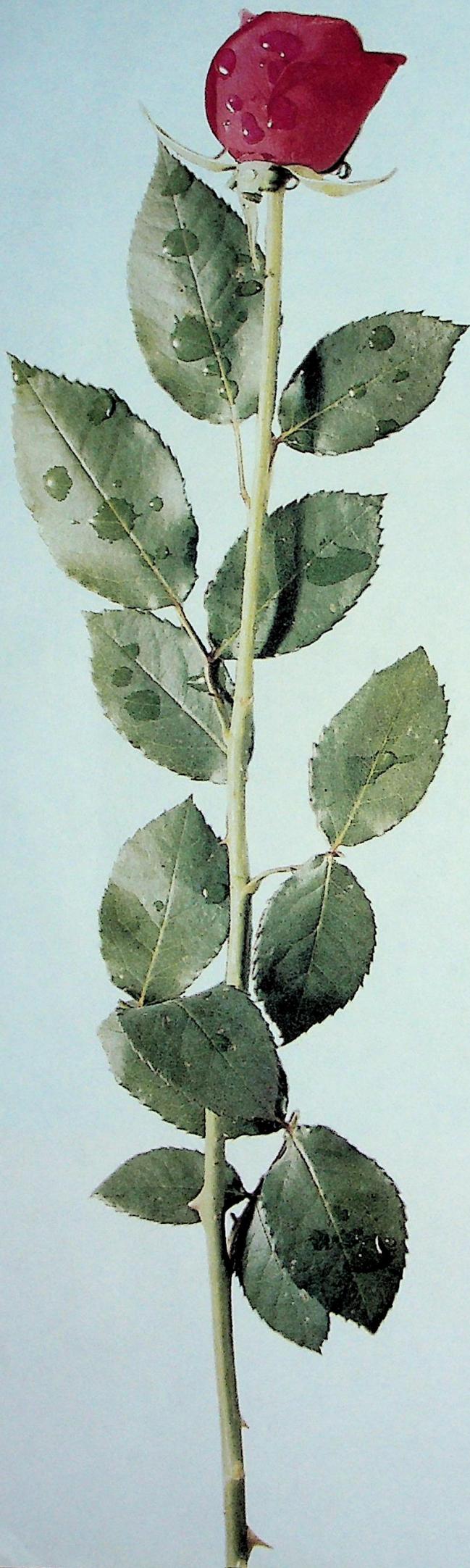
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Carol (Schepflin) Prosser - John Yahl November 1, 1997 pg. 13
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Mandy Saulsbury - Chris Gibson - July 18, 1998 pg 27

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Clara Morgan - December 20, 1997 Jeanette & Craig Diekman pg 39
Dustin Philip -January 10, 1998 - Kelli & Todd Poole ^(Klausz) pg 47
Margaret Alyse - January 30, 1998 - Christopher & Denise Hirt pg 62
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Emily Jane - March 2, 1998 - Joanna & Matthew Troxel pg 36
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JACOB KARL - APT. 4 - 1998 RON + CONNIE FRANK

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E. Pauline Hirt - May 28, 1998 pg 43



DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL... I HAVE ONLY SLIPPED INTO THE NEXT ROOM... I AM I AND YOU ARE YOU... WHATEVER WE WERE TO EACH OTHER, THAT WE ARE STILL. CALL ME BY MY FAMILIAR NAME, SPEAK TO ME IN THE EASY WAY WHICH YOU ALWAYS USED. PUT NO DIFFERENCE INTO YOUR TONE; WEAR NO FORCED AIR OF SOLEMNITY OR SORROW. LAUGH AS WE ALWAYS LAUGHED AT THE LITTLE JOKES WE ENJOYED TOGETHER. PLAY, SMILE, THINK OF ME, PRAY FOR ME. LET MY NAME BE EVER THE HOUSEHOLD WORD THAT IT ALWAYS WAS. LET IT BE SPOKEN WITHOUT EFFORT, WITHOUT THE GHOST OF A SHADOW ON IT. LIFE MEANS ALL THAT IT EVER MEANT. IT IS THE SAME AS IT EVER WAS; THERE IS ABSOLUTELY UNBROKEN CONTINUITY. WHAT IS DEATH BUT A NEGLIGIBLE ACCIDENT? WHY SHOULD I BE OUT OF YOUR MIND BECAUSE I AM OUT YOUR SIGHT? I AM WAITING FOR YOU, FOR AN INTERVAL, SOMEWHERE VERY NEAR, JUST ROUND THE CORNER. ALL IS WELL.

Henry Scott Holland

82nd HIRT FAMILY REUNION

COME JOIN US

JULY 19, 1998



**MISTY MEADOWS
2100 BARKER RD
FREMONT, OHIO 43420**



POTLUCK STARTS AT NOON

(PLEASE BRING YOUR TABLE SERVICE)

SWIMMING

HORSESHOES



CHILDREN'S GAMES



VOLLEYBALL

WHITE ELEPHANT AND CRAFT AUCTION

**GOLFERS: COST FOR THE SCRAMBLE IS \$15.00 WITH A CART,
OR \$10.00 WITHOUT FOR NINE HOLES. PLEASE CONTACT
DICK SCHEPFLIN AT (419)334-3288 BY JULY 10TH.**

82nd Hirt Family Reunion

JULY 19, 1998

Misty Meadows
2100 Baker Road • Fremont, Ohio 43420

Potluck Starts at Noon

White Elephant and Craft Auction

Golfers: cost for the scramble is \$15.00 with a cart,
or \$10.00 without for nine holes.

Please contact Dick Schepflin at (419) 334-3288 by July 10th.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ROBERT C. DAUGHENBAUGH, dripping wet after swimming across the Sandusky River, is led away by Fremont Police Sgt. Tim Wiersma, left, and Sheriff's

Department Capt. Bruce Hirt in an alley between Maple Lane and Celek Drive in Ballville Township at the end of a 90-minute manhunt Wednesday afternoon.

Aug. 4 — Laura and Mark Withrow, Fremont, a 7-pound, 13-ounce son, Brennan Thomas, at 8:47 p.m. He was 22 inches long. Local grandparents are George and Judy Withrow and William and Sandra Jay, all of Fremont, and Anne Withrow of Old Fort. Great-grandparents are Doris and Rollin Hirt of Clyde.

The 82nd Hirt family reunion for the descendants of Casper and Verena Hirt was Sunday, July 19 at Misty Meadows Camp Fire Complex with 205 members and guests attending.

The day began with the annual golf scramble at Sycamore Hills with 36 golfers participating. Top winners were the team of Kurt Prosser, Randy Hottinger, John Yahl and Marc Yahl. Our thanks to Dick Schepflin for handling all the details.

A huge potluck was enjoyed by all. The children were called outside for games, and the business meeting was called to order by president Jim "Butch" Diedrich.

Five marriages, 10 births and five deaths were reported this past year. Oldest member present was Leta Baumann, visiting from California. Youngest baby present was six-week-old Meredith Grace Troxel, who received the bank.

The next reunion will be the third Sunday in July 1999, at Misty Meadows. Committees were appointed: Connie Schepflin, decoration; Jon Peters, clean up; Kim Diedrich, kitchen. Others to be announced at a later date. A new Hirt family book is in the works.

Officers for next year will be Lyle Hirt, president; Church Schepflin, vice president; and Helen Schepflin, secretary/treasurer.

The day ended with a white elephant and craft auction, with John Hirt, auctioneer, doing the honors. The evening barbecue ended the day.

Hirt

Lyle and Gladine Hirt, 1415 Alger St., will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at P-K's, hosted by their children.

Lyle and the former Gladine A. Erb were married on Nov. 27, 1948, at St. John Lutheran Church by the Rev. E.E. Zimmerman.

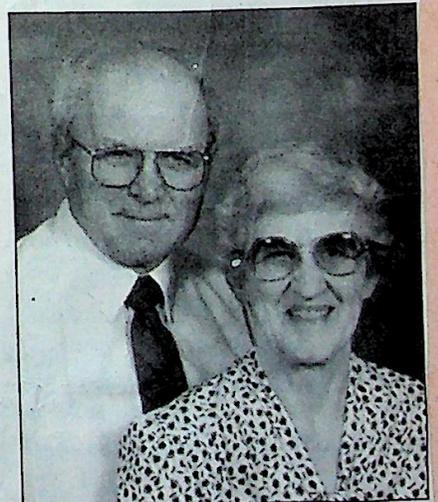
They are the parents of Ken Hirt of Preston, Conn., John and Paul Hirt both of Vickery, Merry Lyn Bagwell of Colleyville, Texas, and Joel Hirt of Wahiawa, Hawaii.

They have 13 grandchildren.

Lyle is a retired Riley Township farmer and School of Hope bus driver.

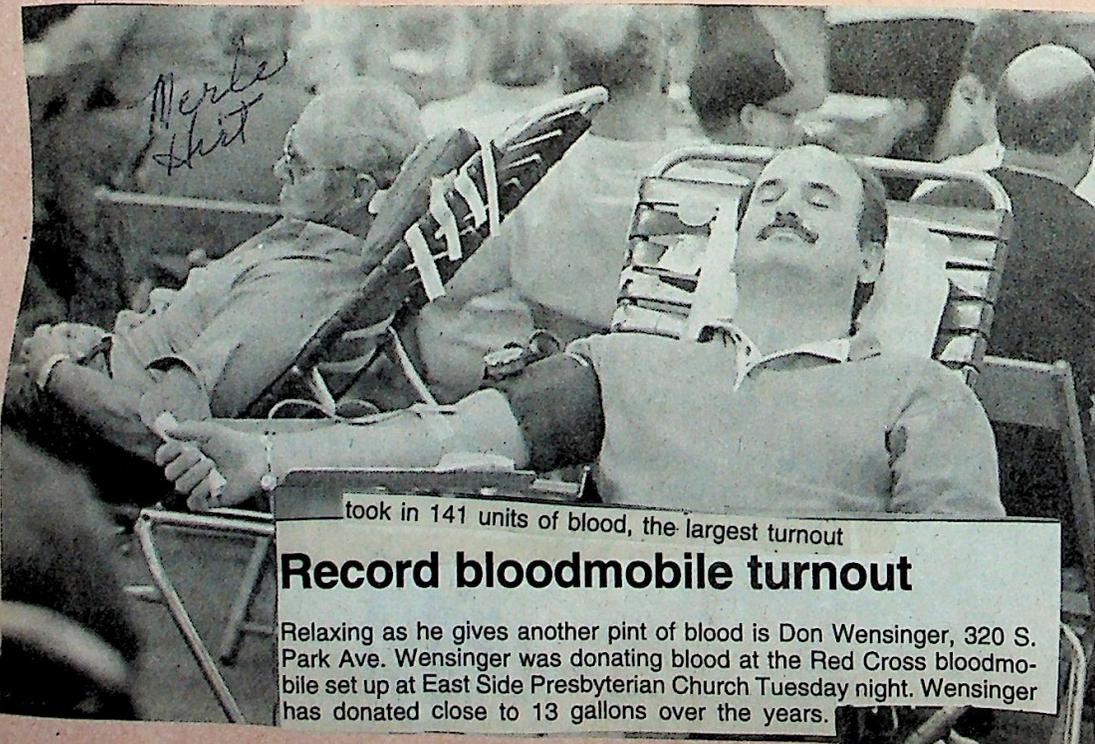
Gladine is a homemaker and a former librarian at Clyde Public Library. She also served as an officer for the Evangelical Women of the Church.

They were both active in the



LYLE and GLADINE HIRT

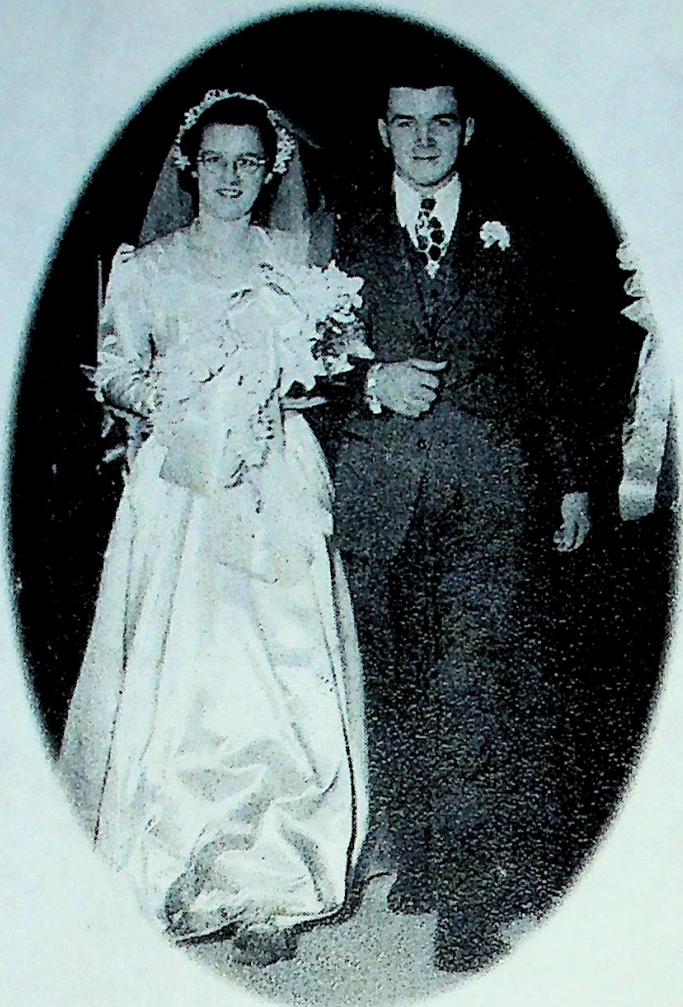
church and community, along with the Riley Boosters 4-H Club for over 25 years. They were also members of the Buttons and Bows Square Dancing Club for more than 30 years.



took in 141 units of blood, the largest turnout

Record bloodmobile turnout

Relaxing as he gives another pint of blood is Don Wensinger, 320 S. Park Ave. Wensinger was donating blood at the Red Cross bloodmobile set up at East Side Presbyterian Church Tuesday night. Wensinger has donated close to 13 gallons over the years.



Gladine and Lyle

1948 - 1998

*The Children of
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Hirt
request the pleasure of your company
at an Open House in honor of the
Fiftieth Anniversary
of the marriage of their parents
on Sunday, the ninth of August
nineteen hundred and ninety-eight
from two until five in the afternoon
PK's
2270 West Hayes Avenue
Fremont, Ohio*

*The only gift we ask
is the gift of your presence.*

SANDUSKY COUNTY FAIR
Wines

**Rose Wine -
Grape**

- 1st, William Green
- 2nd, John Kosta
- 3rd, Paul Hirt

Blueberry

- 1st, Ben Cooley
- 2nd, Paul Hirt

Dry White Wine - Grape

- 1st, Tom Ciani
- 2nd, William Green
- 3rd, Paul Hirt

Cherry

- 1st, Paul Hirt
- 2nd, Ben Cooley

Dandelion

- 1st, Ben Cooley
- 2nd, Scott Nagy
- 3rd, Paul Hirt

Elderberry

- 1st, Ben Cooley
- 2nd, George Dupey
- 3rd, Paul Hirt

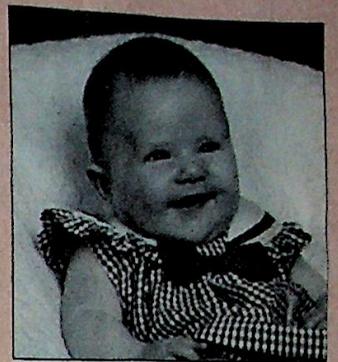
Raspberry

- 1st, Ben Cooley
- 2nd, Vernon Rupke
- 3rd, Paul Hirt

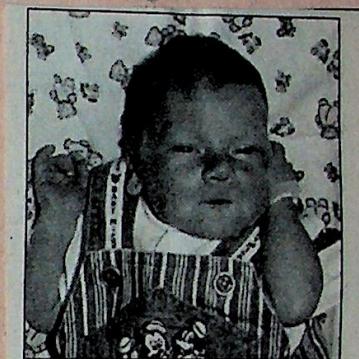
Sparkling

- Wines & Coolers**
- 1st, Ben Cooley
- 2nd, Paul Hirt

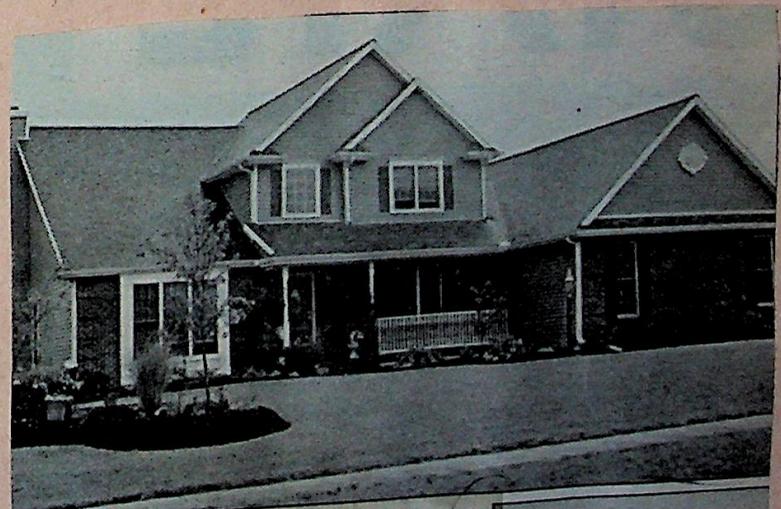
**Grand Champion
Hereford Female**
Yvonne Hirt, Riley Livestock
4-H Club



Margaret Alyse Hirt
Grandchild of
Jim & Dorothy Quaintance
Ken & Marge Hirt



Brennan Thomas Withrow
Grandchild of William & Sandra
Jay, George & Judy Withrow,
Anne Withrow; Great-Grandchild
of Rollin & Doris Hirt

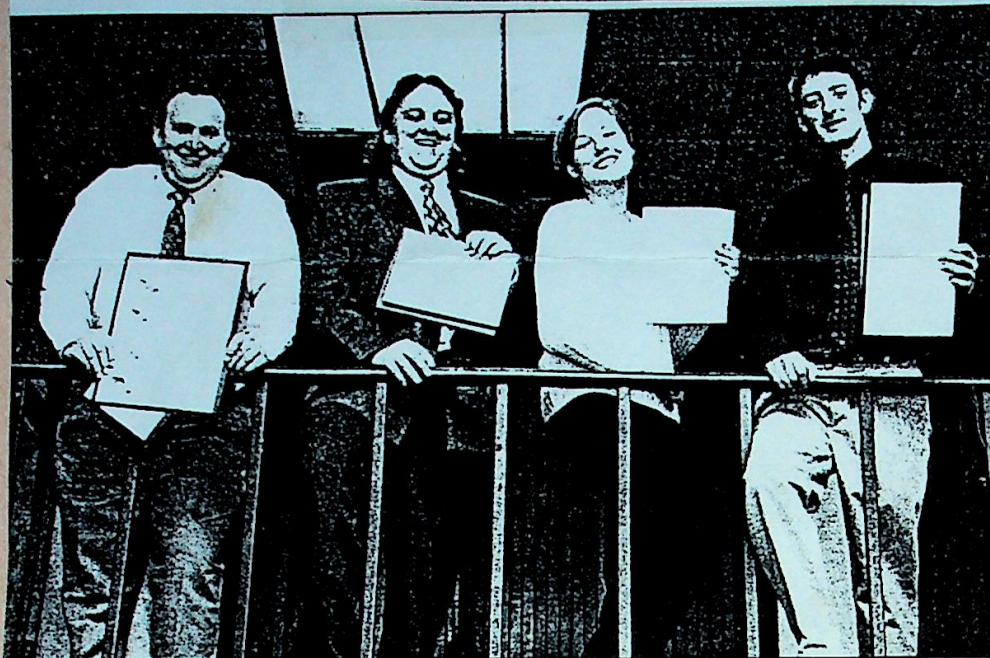


Gary J. Strayer Realty, Bellevue
Terri Iannello

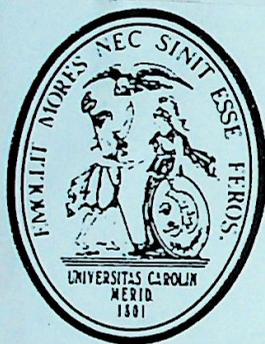
Terry Iannello
Realtor

Terry Hirt





Durig Graduate Student Travel Award winners Michael Rider, Todd Cowan, Kristen Sellers, and Doug Fantz celebrate successful conference presentations. Not pictured: Brian Cullum and Brian Marquardt. The award is designed to encourage graduate students to present their work at national and international meetings.



University of South Carolina

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
AND MATHEMATICS

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Michael Eugene Rider
Chemistry
Marion, Ohio
B.A., Wittenberg University
*Development in Optical System Evaluation, Spatial
Modeling, Chemometrics and Applications with
Atomic Spectroscopy*
Director: Dr. Scott Roy Goode

*Commencement Exercises
Conferring of Doctoral Degrees*

May 9, 1998
Koger Center for the Arts

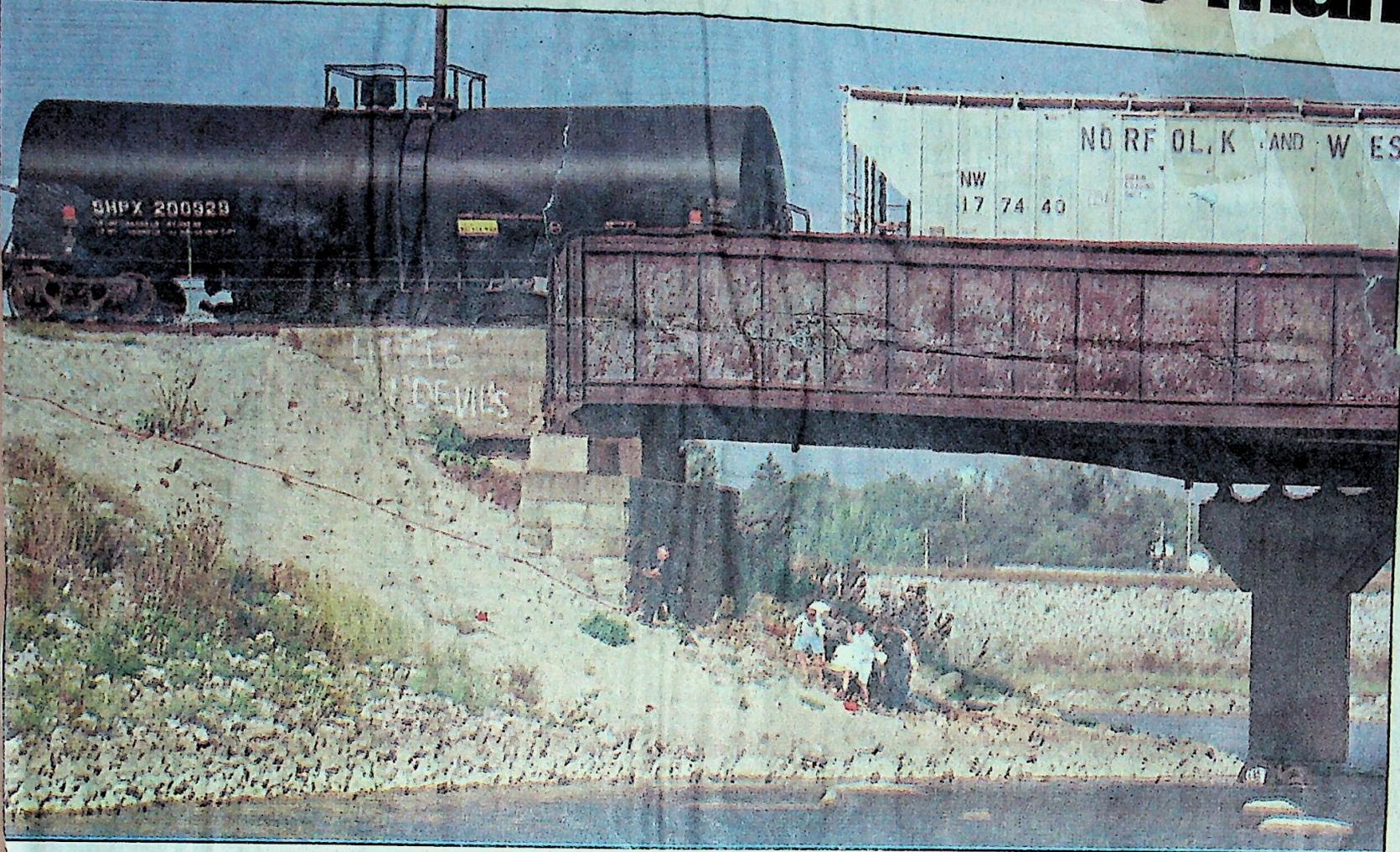
At the Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry, representatives of three journals expressed a strong interest in publishing award-winner Michael Rider's work. Rider, a sixth-year student in Dr. Scott Goode's lab, presented a new method for calculating radial response profiles from lateral profiles of high temperature plasmas using a geometric solution to the area terms in the Abel inversion.

The new method, named Mabel in memory of Rider's grandmother, replaces the less accurate numerical approximation methods developed in the 1960s and still used today. "The representatives of the journals recognized that my work is a major correction," Rider says. "Many of the researchers I spoke with were impressed that I had corrected a calculation that had been thought to be acceptable."



**Larry Schepflin
Store Manager**

Truck-train collision kills man



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

RESCUE WORKERS remove the body of Fremonter James D. Stine, who was ejected from his pickup truck after colliding with a train on the Miles Newton Bridge Saturday afternoon. Part of Stine's pickup truck is wedged under the black train car, and wheels from the truck can be seen protruding above the water in the bottom right-hand portion of the photo.

Son-in-law of Jerry Carl Hirt

Fremonter ejected from vehicle; pickup torn in half

James D. Stine
 Nov. 13, 1946 — Sept. 26, 1998
 James D. Stine, 51, of Morrison Street, died Saturday.

He was born in Fremont to Claude S. and Dora Faye (Utter) Stine. He married Linda K. Ackerman on Feb. 11, 1967, at Faith Lutheran Church, and she survives.

Mr. Stine worked as a road supervisor at the Sandusky County Highway Dept. for 30 years. He retired in October 1997.

He was a member of the Fremont Moose and Eagles and Faith Lutheran Church.

Mr. Stine enjoyed woodworking and playing golf.

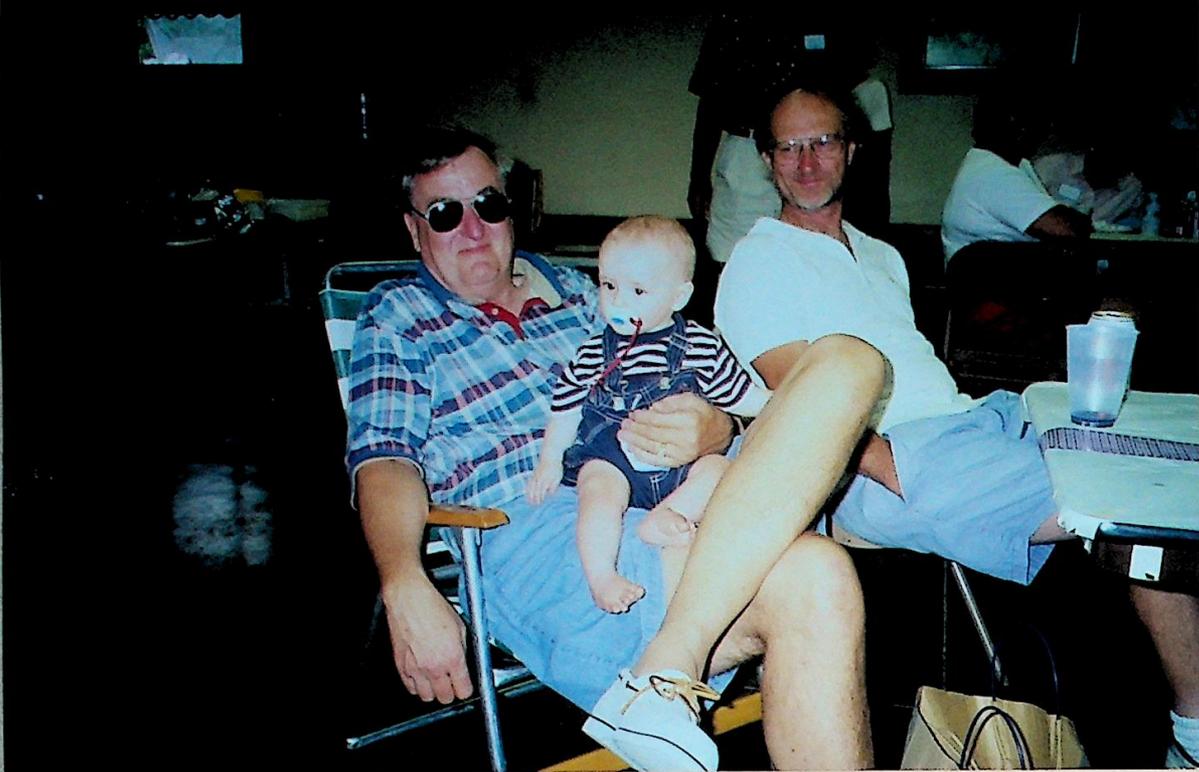
Also surviving are son David Lee Stine of McConnell AFB, Kansas; daughter Susan Lynn Stine at home; brothers Garry and Claude Stine, both of Fremont, and Guy Allen Stine of Vickery; sisters Claudia Stine and Luann Schwert, both of Fremont, Kae Haar of Lindsay and Wendy Stine of Virginia; and four grandchildren. His parents are deceased.

Visitation: 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Wonderly-Horvath Funeral Home. Moose services are 7 p.m.

Services: 11 a.m., Wednesday, Faith Lutheran Church. Additional visitation is one hour before the services.

Burial: Four Mile House Cemetery.

Heartfelt THANKS to all our friends and relatives who made our 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration so special. The best gift of all, that a person can give, is the gift of friendship and caring. Special THANKS to our children who planned it all.
 Lyle & Gladine Hirt



Vincent E. Troxel

March 28, 1917 — Nov. 14, 1998

Vincent E. "Vince" Troxel, 81, of Benlu Drive, died Saturday at home.

He was born in Tiffin to Hal E. and Roxie P. (Hennsinger) Troxel and graduated from Ross High School in 1936. He married Anna M. Hirt on Aug. 10, 1940, and she survives.

Mr. Troxel worked at Soreng, Eaton Co, Controls Co. of America for 23 years. He retired as plant manager at Kelsey-Hayes.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church.

Also surviving are sons James V. of Upper Sandusky and Richard E. of Sylvania; daughter Patricia Troxel of Westerville; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; brother Harold of Oak Harbor; and sister Cleona Lee of Fostoria. Brother Cletus is deceased.

Visitation: 2 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Nopper-Karlovetz Mortuary.

Services: 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Grace Lutheran Church. The body will lie in state beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Burial: Oakwood Cemetery.

Memorials: To the church.

L.S. Hirt

A large group met at the Clyde Recreation Hall Saturday, Nov. 7 for the 33rd annual L.S. Hirt Family Party. The hall was decorated in fall colors.

Table prayer was given by J.C. Diedrich, followed by a potluck at 6 p.m. The American and Swiss flags were on display.

The special guessing game contest was won by Chelsea Diedrich and the ladies door prize by Gwen Dunster. The men's door prize was won by Ryan Burk, who celebrated his 13th birthday on Nov. 7.

Many games of bingo were enjoyed by the group with many prizes for family members being awarded.

Those in attendance were from Clyde, West Salem, Norwalk, Lima, Sandusky, Vickery, Lindsey, and Fremont.

Committee in charge of the gathering was the J. C. Diedrich family. Next year's gathering will be Saturday, Nov. 6 with the Zilles family in charge.

