



History of Canby, Ohio
as
November ^{*of*} *21, 1953*

HISTORY OF VANLUE, OHIO AS OF NOVEMBER 27, 1953

Amanda township dates its erection back to the spring of 1828. Amada and Welfare, now Delaware, being formed from the south east part of Findlay township.

The following men entered land now occupied by the village of Vanlue, Elisha Brown in 1829, Ozias Moore on February 14, 1830 and Samuel Brown in 1834.

The entire tax in Amanda township in 1829 was \$4.30 and only 252 acres were subject to taxation. December 7, 1829 Jackson township was formed from Amanda and Delaware December 6, 1830. A part of Amanda was taken to form Marion township and Biglick was cut off from Amanda March 7, 1831. Amanda now contains 27 sections or an area of 17.280 acres. In 1840 the township had a population of 490.

Andrew Jackson Thompson a native of Virginia came to Lime Stone ridge from Fairfield county. The Indians were numerous in this section. He built his first log cabin northeast of Vanlue at the site of the big spring what is now the Broadwater farm [1. 21692 TR 175]. His eldest daughter Socia was the wife of William Vanlue.

Big spring is the largest spring in the county. In the early days, the spring furnished power for a carding machine and a small corn mill. This spring has been a part of the Findlay water works system since the laying of the water line to lime stone ridge in 1899-1900. The spring house is built of brick and is laid to bed rock. The water is so clear that you can see it rising from the rock.

On the 14th of March 1831 Abraham Huff laid out a town just east of the big spring which he called Capernaum in honor of the Bible city of that name. He had plotted 16 lots, but none were sold, and no houses were built.

About three quarters of a mile east of the spring near the Hile hatchery [1. The first house east of the Wyandot County line on SR 568] was a wayside inn and gun shop. This was known as Ridgeville. However, at present it shows signs of again becoming a growing community with the Hart elevator factory, the Vanlue tile company [1. now Fox Pools 270 Sr 568] and. the Nazarene church being located within a few hundred feet of each other. [1. At the corner of SR568 & TH 89].

State Route Fifteen [¹ New SR 15 is the four-lane highway south of Vanlue running from I-75 at Findlay to SR 23 at Carey] [¹ Old SR 15 is now SR 568] follows what was an old Indian trail which ran through Fort Findlay and west of McComb to another Indian village. On the ridge back of where Ed. Kessler now lives [¹ 21712 SR 568] are several caves and an Indian burial ground. At the time of the Columbian exposition these graves were opened to provide relics for the exposition. [¹ The bones were later sold to someone from England].

Vanlue, the only village in Amanda township, had its inception in 1847 when William Vanlue laid out a town of forty-four lots and named it after himself. It was originally intended to lay the town out with Main Street running north and south along what we know as the south pike [¹ Blanchard St. / TR 197]. But upon hearing rumor of a railroad between Carey and Fort Findlay it was laid out East and West. Four additions have been made to the original plot.

The addition containing fifty lots was added in November of 1847. Beaches first addition June 1851 and November 26, 1858 Beaches second addition was made. The Cross addition was made November 11, 1870. Another interesting thing about the layout of the village is the fact that Vanlue laid out the original town with main street running East and West. When Mr. Beach laid out his addition, he laid the street according to the railroad. Thus, the slight bend in Main street at the town pump [¹ Corner of Main & Main Cross St.]. Lot number one [¹ 108 W. Main St.] in Vanlue is the present home of George Cravins. [¹ Current home of Bob Wells]

From there east past the E.U.B. [¹ Bethel United Methodist] Church was to have been a park or town square such as we see in the eastern part of Ohio. But due to a disagreement between Mr. Vanlue and Mr. Beach this was finally sold in lots.

The railroad has played an important part in the growth of the community.

On the fourth of March 1845, the county commissioners issued a proclamation to qualify voters to vote in a special election to be held the first Monday of April 1845 to determine if the county should subscribe to the building of a railroad in the county to be known as the Mad River-Lake Erie Railroad. The road to run from Carey in Wyandot county to Ft. Findlay. The vote carried 1055 to 784 and the commissioners purchased twelve hundred shares of stock at \$50.00 per share, or \$60,000.

Wilson Vance, William Taylor, John Patterson, and William L. Hendricks were appointed as agents to get bonds printed and meet with the railroad company, September 11, 1845. The commissioners authorized \$15,000 additional or a total of \$75,000 for the building of the railroad. Two routes were surveyed from Carey to Findlay. The first route followed what is now state route 15 [¹. now SR 568] but was given up because they could find no practical way to cross the swamp at the foot of lime stone ridge. A second choice was made, and the road was built through Vanlue. John Patterson, John Ewing and Hiram Smith, managed construction of the road. It was completed and put in operation in December of 1849.

Mrs. Martha Howell, who left Vanlue in 1875 to live in Findlay has following to say, “My father, Joseph Thompson was one that helped grade Findlay branch of the Big 4, then called the Mad River road, The old strap iron was laid on 2 X 4's run length wise of the road bed. Two years after coming back from the Civil war, he helped take up these strap rail and put down another type [¹. T-rail]. Father was a section foreman until his death in 1874”. [¹. October 1869 the work of T-railing the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad (the first R.R. in the count) was completed, It later became part of the Big Four.] [¹. When the railroad line from Carey was abandoned, Dick Hendricks & sons Leo & Keith obtained the “W” whistle sign just inside the Hancock County line which then was presented to the Historical Society for use at the train ride next to the “Little Red School” on CR 236].

[¹. In 2004, Paul Dipert shared that when he was young, a runaway train came from Findlay and when the engine reached Vanlue, it was red-hot. Paul turned 94 in 2004].

It took all day for the engine and one coach to run from Carey to Findlay and it often jumped the track. They distributed wood along the track and had to stop quite often for fuel. In 1870 the strap iron was replaced with Tee rails.

At the peak of its usefulness there were as many as eight trains per day between Carey and Findlay. During the depression years in the 1930's the west end of the road between Vanlue and Findlay was abandoned. The east end is still used for freight service with the trains on no fixed schedule. [¹. It is now the Boulevard between North & South High Sts.].

An interesting anecdote is told of this period, during the Civil War a group of young men wishing to avoid military service organized a unit, They practiced Cavalry every Saturday afternoon in what Mrs. Burnap's four acres is now [¹ the area of Brooks Trucking Garage]. Captain Sampson from Houcktown was their leader. The people of the community tired of this display, so a telegram was written ordering the unit to report for induction. Ben Burnap went east of town along the railroad right of way and flagged the train and gave the conductor the telegram. There being no telegraph lines between Vanlue and Carey the conductor delivered the telegram to the station agent as was the custom. The agent with due ceremony delivered the telegram to Captain Sampson on the parade ground on Saturday afternoon. The men were so alarmed they broke up practice and never came together again. Thereafter Mr. Sampson was always called Captain Sampson.

The first business begun in the village of Vanlue was a tannery in 1847, the owners were Thompson and Barnhart. This was located where Leo Coldren now lives [¹ 200 Maple St.]. Clawer and Green opened a general dry goods and grocery store the same year. Hiram and W. L. Plotts were the first carpenters, afterward carrying on a cabinet shop and carding mill run by steam power. In 1847-48 S. N. Beach opened a general store, Peter Shuck a grocery, and Isaac Vanhorn a Blacksmith shop.

The first sawmill was a Muley mill located where Milton Bright now lives [¹ 312 W. North St]. It was steam powered. The saw ran up and down and the logs were pushed against the saw.

Hills hub factory was located east of where Charles Sloop now lives [¹ 333 S. High St.], The ashery was located where Eugene Hendricks now stores hay at the south edge of town on Crawford street.

The town was well taken care of physically at this time having five doctors to minister to their needs. They were Doctors A. Eell, Abrahm Brown, W. F. Wilson, Sayer Igert, Todd, and Myers.

The town grew considerably during the first few years. Being located on the railroad. It became a great shipping center for the surrounding country.

In 1859 a foundry was opened by James Freman which lasted about five years. About 1851-52 a shingle factory was built and operated for a few years.

In 1855-56 a grist mill was built by Hiram Russell and after passing through several hands was bought by Fredrick Schuler in 1862. He ran the mill for some ten years and then sold it to Jacob Wall.

In September 1866 Vanlue was incorporated for special purposes and the first election of officers was held April 13, 1867. The results were as follows, Elisah Brown, Mayor; Abraham Brown, recorder; Hiram Pratt, Ira Plotts, B. A. Etherton, Charles Hatch, and A. S. Roberts, council.

The Mayoralty since has been filled by Aquilla Gilbert, Fredrick Shuler, J.H. Brown, Ben F. Burnap, T.H. Gilbert, Henry T. Lee, John Ward, Charles Hatch, William Alspach [¹ Jean C, Hendricks' Great Grandfather], Henry L. Lee, David Eshbach, J.M.K. Long, Ira Plotts, John Cross, Calvin Clark, George Snook, E.L. E. Mumma, D.C. Cole, Daniel Gilbert, H. A. Renshler, H. G. Early, W. L. Daniels, John Hendricks, Wayne Crawford, George Snook, G. K. Cole, Bert M. Bachar, Harry Morehart, Alfred P. Eire, Wayne Crawford, H. E. Hendricks, Frank Burnap, Clayton Lay, and W. E. Bright.

After its incorporation prosperity once more visited the town and new impetus was given to business, December 3, 1877 Vanlue was incorporated for general purposes. The census of 1880 gave the population as 364. Mr. Shuler sold the mill to Homer Vansant and soon after it burned to the ground.

In 1876 Mr. Shuler erected the Centennial mills a two- and one-half story frame building. In 1884-85 Mr. Shuler put in the roller process and turned out a grade of flour second to none. We are told that flour from this mill was shipped as far as Scotland. [¹ The empty lot north of the Marathon station on S. Buffalo St.]

Two saw and planing mills were operated in the village and an extensive tile and brick yard were established in 1884. A large grain elevator and warehouse were located near the tracks. It was built soon after the railroad was completed.

Donald Bright resides where John Crawford's pump factory was operated [¹ lot just east of 312 W. North St.]. They manufactured handmade wooden pumps. The pumps were made by boring a three-inch bole in a five-inch square timber and adding wooden buckets with leathers, the handle and pump rod were also made of wood.

In 1876 one of Vanlue's most famous citizens was born. Tell Taylor was born in a house located where Harold Wilcox now lives [¹ 104 E. Main St.]. The house was moved

from this site to the west part of town and is now a part of the Moody Crawford property where Charles Bibbler lives [¹ 208 W. North St]. Mr. Taylor was famous in vaudeville appearing on the stage with such famous actors as W.C. Fields. He was also famous for such songs as "Down by the old Mill Stream" and "Rock me to sleep in the old rocking chair."

In 1894 the old mill burnt never to be replaced. Where Marion Herman now lives [¹ 203 S. High St.] was the site of a handle factory.

Mr. Wall also operated the town's hotel which was located just east of Jays Service, and a skating rink just south of the old handle factory. Wescott Brothers were prominent in town affairs, operating a furniture store and undertaking establishment.

In 1901 W. H. Snyder of Carey opened a flour exchange. He then purchased the planing mill from Ben Burnap. This firm at present is as Snyder Lumber Co. [¹ Now the site of Tandem Trucking, 412 S. Buffalo St.] and managed by George Snyder, a son of the founder. Also, in 1894 John Hendricks started in the haying buying business. This is now carried on by his son H. Eugene Hendricks and Grandson John Hendricks.

In 1895 Fred S. Lee started in the thrashing business which he operated until 1940. Mr. Lee says perhaps he has thrashed grain on more farms than anyone in the county. His last machines were powered by Oil Pull engines.

Again, in this period, Vanlue was blessed with four doctors. Dr. Burkham, McGee, Schrote [¹ 213 E. Main St.], and Metzler. In 1895 Dr. William Metzler [¹ 109 W. Main St.] started practice and carried on until his death in 1934. The town hasn't been fortunate enough to have a doctor since. [¹ Dr. Metzler delivered Richard Hendricks in 1919 and Jean Coldren Hendricks in 1928].

The first Post Office was established in 1849 in a building that was located where Beck's locker now stands [¹ 124 Center St., Vanlue Town Hall]. Aquilla Gilbert was the first postmaster.

In 1858 William Alspach bought Peter Shucks grocery which he operated until 1889 when he built the building which is now our township house, for the purpose of housing the post office. After his term of office, he opened a grocery and operated it until he retired in 1910. Some of the postmasters who have served are Aquilla Gilbert, William Alspach, Ben

Burnap, Sam Lamott, Sherman Buckingham, Willie Lemott, George Snook, Dan Gilbert, Wayne Crawford, Frank Diver, Guy Burnap, Glen Cole, Fla V. Dipert, and Mable Crawford. The old original post office boxes are used at present for storage purposes in the office.

Vanlue had a rural route from 1903 until 1933 served by Persie B. Hendricks [¹. 125 E. Main St.]. Mr. Hendricks first used a horse and wagon to make his route but as roads improved he used the automobile. Upon his retirement our route was combined with the Mt. Blanchard route in a move for economy. Our route is now serviced by Robert Bilbert of Mt. Blanchard.

Mail service has changed down through the years, First being brought to the community on horseback. Then the railroad was built, and mail was carried by train until the rail was abandoned west of Vanlue and passenger service was stopped. We now receive our mail by Star route from Carey, with delivery twice each day. [¹. In 2004 the mail is brought in from Lima in the A.M. and out in the P.M.] Most of the time since the post office was started in Vanlue it has been housed in some other place or business. After becoming a third-class office more space was needed. At present it is housed in the former bank building [¹. 301 S. Buffalo St.].

In the summer of 1883, a Civil War Veterans reunion was held at the Moore farm just north of town [¹. 12999 SR 330]. This was real event of the times. General William Gibson of Tiffin was the main speaker of the day. Lemuel Cole who tells of the event says he was ten years old at the time. The only thing he recalls is part of a speech given by William Brown of Mitchell Raider fame. "He said, the first thing he ever stole was a water melon and the last a locomotive."

In 1898 Jerome Herman purchased the [¹. grocery] store of George Alspach located in the I.O.O.F. building [¹. 300 S. Buffalo St.] which he operated along with the hay buying business for a period of years. In 1912 he sold the store to O.A. Diver and sons Curtis and Frank who came to Vanlue from West Mill Grove. Divers operated the store until 1925. [¹. Then L.C. (Claude) Dipert and son Paul operated it. Tom Sherick was the next owner. It was then closed and became a restaurant. That ended our grocery store in town].

Frank and his father O.A. Diver were prospectors in the Alaska gold rush, and many are the stories they could tell of their hardships and experiences in the gold rush days. Frank Diver had the distinction of driving the first mail from Nome to Fairbanks by dog team.

In 1925 the store was sold to L.C. Dipert and Paul Dipert who operated as L. C. Dipert and Son.

Some of the other industries of this period were: Charles Cain - Tin Shop, Burnap and Gamberling - Tin Shop, W.H. Early and Son - Meat Market, Joe Renschler - Meats, William Sworden - Meats, and Albert Bachar - Jewelry.

The following have been barbers in Vanlue. Rev. Busbee - Colored barber and preacher, Douglas Alspach, Fred Cosway, Jack Tarlton, Tommy Griffet, Don Baine, Harry Pratt, Jay Hunt, Rev. George Cox, Green Risner and Rex Dyer, [1. and Ozzie Simon].

The Village Bakers have been Pat Hammond, Harry Hammond, Harry and James Thompson, Elmer Tong, Elsie Needles, and W.H. Pike-Slaughter.

The utilities other than the railroad have played an important part in the growth of the community. About 1875 gas was piped over town from wells situated on the Bolby farm where Clyde Heck [1-20060 TR 175] now lives. As these wells were depleted, gas was discovered on the property of Zacchaeus Eatherton where Leo Coldren [1- 200 Maple St.] now lives. When these wells were depleted the town was without gas for several years until gas was again discovered on the property of Ben Burnap [1- 208 E. Main St.]. Gas from this well was piped to the bakery and two or three homes but never completely over town.

About 1915 there was again a gas and oil boom with several wells being drilled on the William Eatherton farm [1-14000 Block of TR 190] south of Vanlue where Robert Kleisch [1-13782 TR 190] now lives. These wells served the town well for a period of about ten years. They began to be depleted and folks barely had enough gas to cook with. The operators of the company became so hard pressed for finances that they repaired their lines with inner tubes and tape and meters were removed so that gas might flow more freely. Lafe Crawford was service man for the company for many years doing the best possible to render good service. In 1927-28 gas and oil were discovered on lime stone ridge. There being surplus of gas it was piped to the lime plant at Carey and also to Vanlue. This company was operated by Robert W. Kirk of Findlay and Floyd Trask. The gas was sold to Mr. Ethernon. Again, the wells began to fail, and the local company was forced into receivership.

In 1935 a new gas company was incorporated by Robert Kirk, L. C. Dipert and Curtis Kline. They still tried to operate on ridge gas. There was still a shortage, and it

was first come first served. Finally, the towns people were so aroused that there was a movement to force the company to give up their franchise and let someone in who could give service. In 1937 a new two-inch line was laid to the Charles Beard [1. 18000 block of C.R. 169] farm west of Vanlue and connected to the Ohio Fuel Co. System. The village has enjoyed the best of service since. The present company has a unique record of only one unscheduled shut down from 1937 to date. [1. Now owned by Sheldon Gas Company of Dunkirk]. In 1953 it was necessary to expand the system, so a new four-inch line has been laid from the Ohio Fuel Company joins to the school house.

In 1902 the village enjoyed its first telephone service with Oscar Wise building a line from Mt. Blanchard to Vanlue. The first central office was located in the property of Mrs. P.B. Hendricks, where Earl Shaffer now lives [1. 200 N. Buffalo St.]. The first operators were Dora Plotts, Mrs. William Snook, and Mrs. Edith Coldren. In 1907 there was a move in the community to purchase the company from Mr. Wise and expand the rural service. February 26, 1908 the present company was incorporated. Through the years it has served well. Twice the company has almost been ruined by sleet storms but has managed to survive. During the period from World War One until 1950 the people of the community received their telephone service for one dollar and one dollar twenty cents per month. This low rate almost ruined the company as they had no capital to operate with. It was necessary to use the greatest economy to exist. Charles Pratt was service man for over twenty-five years.

In 1949 it became apparent that it would be necessary to increase the rates for service and give better service or the company would go the way so many of our neighboring companies. In 1950 the present rates of \$2.50 for rural ten party line, \$2.50 for town four party line, \$3.50 for private line and \$4.00 for business line.

In the last three years much improvement has been made in service. A majority of the outside plant has been brought up to date. New cable has been added, four copper toll lines are maintained to Findlay extended are a service is given to Wharton, Mt. Blanchard, Arcadia. and Alvada. The present chief operator is Mrs. Laura Bechtel and service man is Ralph Vanhorn.

In 1895 Vanlue had one of its first drainage contractors when William Dipert and sons operated a tile yard on what is now part of the football field. Mr. Dipert lived in the house now occupied by Delbert Cupp [1. 419 E. North St]. He did most of his work by

hand and with horses and dump scrapers. He laid some of the first clay tile used in the community.

In this period U. [1. Uriah] S. Sillik operated a dry goods, drug, and grocery store [1. at the corner of Center and Main Cross St. which is now the Amanda Township Building]. George Leader - a well drilling business and a cider mill that served the community well for many years.

In 1908 Charles F. Sutter built an elevator along the railroad which is now known as Vanlue Grain and Supply Co. After operating the elevator for about five years he sold it to Harvey H. Tippin who operated the elevator until 1916. In 1915 there was a move in the community to organize a farmer's cooperative elevator to be known as Vanlue Grain Supply Co. This organization purchased the elevator from Mr. Tippin. In 1916 they purchased the U.S. Sillik or Swihart store as it was known at that time. After about ten years the venture proved to be unprofitable, and the store was sold to L.C. Dipert and Son and closed.

In 1910 Gale Beck and Sam Gorden started the first garage in Vanlue. They had the agency for the Regal automobile. Their enterprise was the beginning of the modern garage in our town. In 1915 Loren and Paul Pratt operated a garage. Leo Coldren operated a garage from 1921 to '51. Fred Hendricks was also a garage owner. Jay's Service [1. on Center St.] operated by Johnson Risner is at present the town's only garage. It is located in what was formerly the Moody Crawford building [1. on Center St.]. In 1912 William Fry started a bank in Vanlue. The bank filled a great need in the community. Harry J. Morehart was the first cashier. In the early times it was necessary for the store keepers to play the part of the banker, sometimes to their sorrow. The first bank was located on railroad street in the building that stood where Earl Beck has built a new storeroom. The bank prospered and built a building at the corner of Main and Buffalo Street [1. 301 S. Buffalo St.] opposite Dipert's store. They occupied this building until the bank was forced to close during depression. [1. The bank paid \$.98 on the dollar to depositors.]. [1. The bank was robbed at one point. Kenneth Coldren was the teller.] The bank building is presently used for the Post Office.

1913 again brought progress to Vanlue. Through the efforts of Guy F. Burnap a light and power plant was built. This marked the end of the old coal oil lamps for Vanlue and also the lamp lighter. The first contract for street lights was for \$600.00 for twenty-four 100-watt bulbs to be operated from six P.M. to midnight. The first

service for the village was rendered from six to midnight. The original plant was 220 volts. Whenever the good ladies of the village wished to use an electric sweeper they could persuade the engineer to start the plant in the afternoon and run it at 110 volts. After about ten years Mr. Burnap sold the plant to the Suburban Light and Power Co. who later were purchased by the Ohio Power Co.

Earnest (Roxy) L. Plotts served the light and power company from the beginning. In 1913 he was engineer in the first plant then as trouble man for both the Suburban and Ohio Power Co. until his death in 1940. [1. He lived where the school addition is. The house was later moved to 121 E. North St.]

Music played an important part in community life. One of the first organizations being a brass band organized by Moody Crawford. Mr. Crawford operated an ice cream parlor and restaurant in the building now occupied by Jay's Service [1. on Center St.]. Music was one of Mr. Crawford's hobbies. [1. His sandwiches were well known in the area – mention a Moody's sandwich & everyone knew what you meant. A hamburger dipped in crackers & egg].

The band first practiced in Fry's woods back of our present school on Sunday afternoons. The people of the town would all come out to listen to the practice. Later bands practiced in the town hall and in the K.P. Lodge.

Carey Hendricks who was our village blacksmith played the tuba in the band. [1. Once when a sour note was played, the musician blamed it on a fly speck on the music. That became a town joke. "Playing a fly turd" was good for a laugh anywhere]. Some of the later leaders of the town band were Prof. Carl Twining, Cal Cramer, and Earl Snook. One leader which will linger in the memories of his old students was Prof. Frank Strucio who was an Italian by birth and one time a member of [1. John Phillip Sousa] Sousies band. His band will not be forgotten.

About 1940 our present school band program was started. At present we have a lively marching band of which we are proud under the direction of Russell E. Willeke.

The churches have played an important part in the growth of our community. The United Brethren denomination built the first church at Vanlue in 1851-52. The English Lutheran the second and the Methodist the third.

At present we have two fine churches in the village. Both buildings being of brick construction. The following have entered the ministry from Vanlue: Lehr Biddle, Marion Snook, and Merritt Plotts. Rev. Harry A. Rothrock is the Methodist minister and Rev. V. J. Lathey the E.U.B.

It has taken the combined effort of three churches and two lodges to undo the effects of the sale of liquor by four saloons of the early village. But good has triumphed over evil to the extent that it is now impossible to buy even beer in the village of Vanlue, Amanda Township or Biglick Township.

Fountain lodge number 353 I.O.O.F. [¹. 300 Buffalo St.] was instituted July 28, 1859. The charter members being John Wescott, Aquilla Gilbert, Abram Brown, Hiram Plotts, Joshua Myers, Orville Gorden, Henry Watkins, and Benjamin Scott. The lodge erected a fine two-story building in 1883 at the cost of \$6000.00 Selling their old building to Ira Plotts. In 1907 they erected an addition to the south of the original building making the building as we know it today.

Ellen lodge Number 60 I.O.O.F. was organized May 10, 1870.

Lelonia lodge Number 82 I.O.T.G. was organized November 24, 1884.

Education was also an ever-growing need of our community. The first school building was of log construction and located just east of the old U.B. Church on [¹. 124 West] North St. It was used for a number of years. Later a three-room frame school was constructed and used until 1900 when the brick school was constructed on [¹. North] Crawford street. Part of the old frame school was moved to [¹. 201 North] East St. and now forms part of the home of John Kloepfer. The rest of the frame building was used for a town hall and council chamber and was located at the corner of North St., and Railroad alley [¹. now Main Cross Street.] This building was used until the new council chamber and fire station was built in 1946.

The four-room brick school served until 1923. It then became so crowded that the state lifted the charter, and we were forced to build a new building.

Transportation of the students was one of the first problems that faced the combined district. Earl Beck furnished the buses on a contract basis until the board of education felt able to buy their own buses. [¹. Leo Coldren was the bus mechanic]

In 1939 the present school garage was built by W.P.A. Labor. There have been several additions to the school property for football and playground purposes.

Att. William Snook of Findlay is the only member of the first graduating class that is still living.

In 1930 after a serious fire in the Methodist church, a community felt the need. of a better plan to fight fire. So largely through Eugene Hendricks who is fire chief, a new fire department was organized. At present they have two modern trucks.

In 1947 Earl Beck constructed a locker plant which was needed by our community. It fills a need in modern living and this project also removed one of the oldest buildings in town which had outlived its usefulness. (The old Ira Plotts building).

In 1950, Raymond Shaffer, who operates a modern feed mill in the old school building, [1. on North Crawford St.] built a modern storage elevator and grain dryer which brought much needed facilities to our community. The elevator is of horizontal construction and the grain is handled by power operated screws. It has a capacity of about 125,000 bushels of grain.

The present business establishments in the community are:

Carl Beaver	Fixit shop and dry goods shop
Gene Rice	Grocery
Shaffer and Lee	Restaurant
Beck and Son	Plumbing and Tin shop
Vanlue Grain Supply	Elevator and feed mill
Jay's Service	Garage
E.R. Beck	Locker
L.C. Dipert and Son	General Store
H.E. Hendricks	Hay and wool buyer
R.W. Shaffer	Elevator and feed mill
Carl Barger	Well drilling
Arthur Naeyaert and Son	Poultry buyers
Leo Marquet	Lunch and pool hall

Roy Moser	Antiques
Snyder Lumber Co,	Building supplies
Virgil Keiffer	Slaughter house
Oza Simon	Barber
Esther Gemberling	Beauty shop
Carey A. Hendricks	Blacksmith
Emma Pratt	Restaurant
[¹ · Bertha Coldren	Dressmaker Shop]

The following committees plus help from many others who have made possible the sesquicentennial celebration for the Vanlue Community.

Pageant

Avonelle Lee Ch.
Wendell Heck
Bertha Bright
John Oman
Raymond Shaffer
Gene Rice
Jay Risner
Merle Boyles

Concessions

Mabel Crawford Ch.
Bernice Loughley
Bernice Haggerty
Darl Shuck

Finance

Gerald Baughman Ch.
Maxine Lay
Kenneth Nye

History

Paul Dipert Ch.
Erman Bright
Eugene Hendricks
Leo Coldren

Historical Display

Darl Burnap Ch.
Merle Walters
Ruby Ewing
Charles Bibler

Advertising

Bobby Hendricks
Marion Herman

I wish to thank everyone who has aided and made possible this program.

Chairman - Ercil Hinkle

Ercil Hinkle

[¹. Annotations and additions by Jean Coldren Hendricks in 2004. The original history listed family names which pre-dated house numbers and addresses]

