

THE HISTORICAL RECORD

November 2024

A Publication of the Wyoming Historical Society and the Wyoming History Museum

WYOMING'S INDIAN HERITAGE...

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Wyoming historian and author, Rebecca Johnson, discusses the Ohio Indian Wars (1787-1815) and their impact on the developing Wyoming community. A short annual meeting will precede the presentation.



**PROGRAMS ARE AT
7 PM
Wyoming Civic Center**

FREE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - REFRESHMENTS

WHAT'S MISSING???



Do you recognize this house? It is better known today as Wyoming's Fine Arts Center, 322 Wyoming Avenue. This picture, from before 1924, is missing the auditorium on the right side. The house was built by Larkin Cavett then sold to the Wyoming Masonic Lodge. They added the auditorium. It housed a few doctor's offices over the years and became our center for Fine Arts in 1995.

Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Avenue
Wyoming OH 45215
513.842.1383

History@Wyomingohio.gov

Open Tuesday 10:30-3:00
or by appointment.



Wyoming History Museum

A Unique and rewarding
place to visit.

Member of:
Ohio Local History Alliance
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Wyoming Historical Society
is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit
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LEAF TIME IN WYOMING....Angela Stiefbold

Wyoming's "Leaf Picker-Upper"

Early

Wyoming must have been an early innovator in leaf collection. In 1941, the *Milwaukee Journal* published a photo of this "leaf picker-upper" developed by Fred Gedge, at the time Wyoming's public service inspector, and who later became city manager. From the house in the background, it looks like this picture was taken on Wilmuth Avenue. I wonder if they were making compost with them back then, too?

Ohio Inventor Builds Huge Leaf 'Raker'



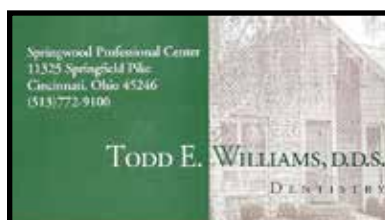
A LEAF picker-upper which Fred Gedge, public service inspector for Wyoming, Ohio, thought up is shown in operation. He took an old truck, ready for the scrap heap, mounted on it an equally old motor from another auto, attached a second hand fan and some pipe and this is the result.

Source: Milwaukee Journal November 5, 1941 via Google News.

Fred (Fredrick George) Gedge (1887-1966) was born in Covington, Kentucky. His father, Julius Gedge, was a salesman when Fred was young, but later was partner in the Gedge & Gray Company, which manufactured machinery used in mills for the production of food, beverages, and other products. Julius's partner, George A. Gray, was his sister's husband.

HAPPY 150TH WYOMING!!!!

BUSINESS MEMBERS



POP-A-DOG

Pop-a-Dog is a mobile hotdog business based in Wyoming, ready to serve anywhere anytime. Owned and operated by Wyoming residents John and Terri Pinkston, Pop-a-Dog debuted in 2016. Since then the business has grown to include serving at many local city and school events as well as private parties and corporate events. We are slowly and cautiously beginning to serve our public once again. Locations and times are posted on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Remember it's always a great day for a hotdog!

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IN MEMORIAM

Jan Denton 1937-2024

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

John Robert Fox, Wyoming's Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, will be honored in November with a plaque in the Marble Hall of the Middle School. That is the very building he graduated high school from in 1934. The students of the Middle School will see a presentation on Fox and hear a Proclamation by Mayor Monich. Thanks to the Lehman Family, we have pictures of the memorial in Italy honoring Fox and others who sacrificed their lives for freedom on that day, December 26, 1944. Fox graduated from Wyoming 90 years ago and passed away 80 years ago December.

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Browsing the Cincinnati Enquirer can be fun. This is from August 6, 1955.

WYOMING HIT

In Simulated Air Attack —Residents Are Scared By Training Aid Blast

Detonation of what was thought to be an Air Force training explosive yesterday on Brooks Street, Wyoming, gave residents of the neighborhood something besides the weather to talk about.

No one was injured but many were frightened when a "Simulator, Ground, M115" burst in the middle of the asphalt pavement in the 700 block of the exclusive residential section.

The big bang was preceded by a long whistle, Mrs. E. A. Kindel, 728 Brooks St., said. Then a column of black smoke shot into the air. The pavement was blackened by the charge.

Mrs. Kindel called Wyoming police. Patrolman William World said he had several reports that an automobile had sped through the street shortly before the blast and that a "small airplane" had been circling high overhead. Contacting the Army Supply Depot at Ft. Thomas, he was informed the explosive had something to do with Air Force training. The Air Force was expected to pick up the pasteboard remnants of the "bomb" today.

HAPPY 150TH WYOMING!!!!

WYOMING BY THE YEAR

1924-1948

With one war over and another one soon to happen the residents of Wyoming elect Frank S. Bonham to serve as Mayor for much of this period. Bonham Road is named in his honor. The Fire Department gets its first siren and the Wyoming Volunteer Fire Department Association is formed. The schools have their first Hobby Show and the Wyoming Golf Club incorporates using Hollmann Daily's former pastures on Mt. Pleasant as its permanent home.

- 1924 Mayor recommends putting its first traffic signal, a Mushroom light signal, at Wyoming and Springfield Pike.
- 1925 Wyoming schools have 397 students and the football team travels to away games by street car.
- 1926 The Doughboy statue at the Civic Center is dedicated on November 11th.
- 1927 The Wyoming Golf Club is Incorporated.
- 1928 The Wyoming Avenue school building opens.
- 1929 Mayor Bonham appoints Frederick G. Gedge as the Service Director for the Village of Wyoming. In 1951, Gedge becomes Wyoming first City Manager
- 1930 Walter Commins becomes the 2nd Wyoming Police Officer to die in the line of duty.
- 1931 The water plant adds a water softener.
- 1932 The Wyoming Fire Department holds its first Turkey Raffle.
- 1933 The May Fete get its name!
- 1934 Fire Chief August Spreen dies and is succeeded by his son, Walter Spreen. Spreen's Corner, Springfield Pike and Wyoming Avenue, is named in their honor.
- 1935 The Police Department consisting of 4 patrolmen, one night station man and the Marshal, responded to 470 calls which included 25 felonies and 51 accidents.
- 1936 The Wyoming Drama Club officially changes its name to The Wyoming Players.
- 1937 Wyoming Fire Department buys an Ahrens Fox Fire Engine for \$6,840.
- 1938 As a WPA (Works Progress Administration) project, artist Joseph Geyer paints a series of seven murals in the marble hallway at the Wyoming Avenue school.
- 1939 J. Earl Pruden, a graduate of Miami University, is sworn in as the 16th Mayor.
- 1940 St. James dedicates its new building on Springfield Pike.
- 1941 Ralph Foster, Wyoming High School graduate (1911), is sworn in as the 18th Mayor and the first Wyoming graduate to serve in that position.
- 1942 The Lockland-Wyoming Train Station stops passenger service.
- 1943 Wyoming's first Cub Scout troop is formed, Pack 81.
- 1944 John R. Fox (WHS '34) is killed in the line of duty in Italy – he received the Medal of Honor.
- 1945 Residents are complaining about the smell and smoke from the incinerator at what is now Oak Park.
- 1946 The founding and first service of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Wyoming. Their building is not completed for another 10 years.
- 1947 The first Wyoming School "Sophomore" Directory is produced, but just for the high school.
- 1948 John Proctor serves as the first Police Chief in Wyoming.

WYOMING BY THE YEAR

1949-1973

Wyoming is known for its schools and during this period four primary schools were built in separate residential areas while the high school football team goes 10-0-0 scoring 446 points to zero for their opponents. With Wyoming becoming a city, increased population means more and better equipment is needed to provide adequate services. The Fire Department purchases an Oren Roanoke 750 GPM Pumper truck for \$13,780.

- 1949 The new mid-century modern Civic Center is dedicated on December 9th.
- 1950 Harry Stockmeier succeeds Walter Spreen as the Fire Chief.
- 1951 On September 5th, Wyoming moves from a Village to a City by virtue of the 1950 census.
- 1952 The Police Department purchases its first Radar Unit to catch speeders.
- 1953 Vermont, the first Primary School, is dedicated.
- 1954 Wyoming purchases Miss Fanny's Boarding House, 412 Wyoming Avenue, which will become the Village Green.
- 1955 Elm Avenue Primary School opens.
- 1956 the City passes an Ordinance creating the rank of Lieutenant in the Police Department.
- 1957 The Police Department Station Wagons are the ambulances of the day.
- 1958 City Council annexes the Goosman Farm and calls that area between Oregon Trail, Fleming, Compton and Hilltop, Cheyenne Hills.
- 1958 Hilltop Primary School opens.
- 1959 The Bonham Branch Library, now the Wyoming Library, is dedicated.
- 1960 First Service is held at the new Friendship United Methodist Church.
- 1961 The former Oak Avenue School is dedicated as the Wyoming Municipal Building.
- 1962 Wyoming Life Squad becomes part of City Government.
- 1962 The Wyoming High School Football team goes 10-0-0 scoring 446 points to their opponents zero!
- 1963 Wyoming annexes the property north of Bonham Road up to Diplomat Drive.
- 1964 The Wyoming Newcomers' Club is founded.
- 1965 The Church of the Ascension and The Church of the Holy Trinity merge.
- 1966 The Fisk House, in Stearns Woods, is burned down in a practice exercise by the Wyoming Fire Department.
- 1967 Julia Derrickson Cave, Wyoming High School graduate (1916), retired from teaching in the Wyoming Public School System after 48 years.
- 1968 Wyoming purchases the property at 1054 Springfield Pike, Wyoming's first Municipal Swimming Pool would be built there the following year.
- 1969 Oak Avenue Gym is leased to the YMCA.
- 1970 Wyoming began the two year process of annexing the Bruzina property on Fleming. It is now Shoshone, Hackamore and the north side Mort's Pass.
- 1971 Navy Veteran, Harry Thomas "Tom" Porter, a graduate of Wyoming High School (1939), is sworn in as the 20th Mayor.
- 1972 Wyoming High School graduate (1975), Deena Deardurff, wins Gold the summer Olympics
- 1973 An Ordinance pertaining to 'Dogs-at-Large' is passed.

HELP US SAVE A STAMP, AN ENVELOPE AND A PIECE OF PAPER...
PLEASE PAY YOUR 2025 DUES FROM THIS FORM. THANK YOU.

**WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
January-December 2025**

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We are an approved 501-c-3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Wyoming Historical Society - 800 Oak Ave - Wyoming OH 45215
History@wyomingohio.gov

**-- MARK YOUR CALENDAR --
PROGRAMS FOR
THE 2024-2025 YEAR**

January 23, 2025 Wyoming resident and professor of history at Miami University's Hamilton campus, Matthew Smith explores the religious landscape of Cincinnati from its frontier beginnings to the wake of the Civil War and explains how the Queen City led the nation in the assimilation of religious minorities, driving growth in the economy, print culture, education and more.

February 20, 2025 WHS board member Amy Pursley examines the people and places behind Wyoming's street names and the changes to those names over the years.

March 27, 2025 Internationally known for his dedication to wildlife preservation, research and education, host of "the 90 Second Naturalist" and former Wyoming resident, Thane Maynard, takes us on a journey through the history of the Cincinnati Zoo from its beginnings to the present day.

The Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Avenue
Wyoming OH 45215

Look forward to seeing you at our
November 14th program.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER...Jim Walton

Thanks to member Bette Matkowski for flying our 150th Naming Anniversary flag.



Dear Members,

Thanks to all of you who stopped by our booth at the Fall Festival to say hello, inquire about Wyoming's history, and purchase our merchandise, which allows us a continued presence in our wonderful community.



And a reminder to renew your annual membership. These dues, along with generous donations, support our programs, the museum and other preservation efforts. Your on-going interest will enable the Historical Society to continue these efforts into next year and beyond.

We couldn't do this without you.

Thank you for your dedication and support.

Jim Walton