



Our Old Bookcase, August 24, 2017, Is this the former path of Lake Shore Drive?

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**Photo caption:** Is this a photograph of the former path of Lake Shore Drive?

### **OUR OLD BOOK CASE**

***By Joyce L. Alig, President, Mercer County Historical Society***

This Post card photograph presents a puzzle to me. Do you Celina Citizens remember seeing these sites along the lake?

The photograph is identified as “Public Boat Landing, Grand Reservoir, 17,500 acres, Celina, Ohio.”

The postmark is dated July 23, 1923. A lady named Jessie wrote to Mrs. W. O. Bently, at Newton, Mass. Her message reads: *“Here is where we spent the day. Great sport! I think I prefer Indiana traveling in a Ford. Beats Pierces all to pieces. Love, Jessie.”*

Apparently, Jessie was referring to the Pierce Automobile, introduced by George N. Pierce, who was known for his Pierce automobile, at the George N. Pierce Company. Prior to World War I, the Pierce automobile became the expensive automobile known as the Pierce-Arrow, respected for its quality. During the War, the Pierce-Arrow, in an effort to help the U.S. Military, sent hundreds of trucks to France and England. After World War I, during the “Roaring Twenties,” the Pierce-Arrow became the elegant traveling vehicle for the wealthy. The story of the Pierce Arrow Motor Car Company is a fascinating study of American success. It presents an alternative individual story on this post card, because *“Jessie preferred a Ford to a Pierce!”*

Back to the photograph on the post card above. The building on the east side, appears to be the Stearic Acid Plant, formerly on South Ash Street, south of Logan Street, adjacent to Grand Lake.

I am trying to determine exactly where the Public Boat Landing was located, in comparison with Lake Shore Drive today.

Do you readers have photographs or post card photographs of this part of Celina, south of Logan Street, east of Main Street, and west of Ash Street?

The Annual Post Card and Post Mark Exhibit at the Mercer County Historical Society will be held on Sunday afternoon, November 12. That would be a great time to bring your post card photographs to the Museum. Or, on Sunday afternoon, October 22, the Annual Military and Antique Gun Exhibit will be on display at the Museum. You can bring your lake photographs and post cards to the Museum, that day and show them to me.

This story about the “routes” of Lake Shore Drive is a mystery to me. I look forward to hearing what history you readers will share with me. The history of Grand Lake becomes more interesting as time goes by.

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