



Our Old Bookcase, November 2, 2017, Ft. Recovery N. Wayne St. Post Card Photograph

Photo caption: This photograph of North Wayne St. was taken after 1907, and perhaps as late as 1920. This Post Card Photograph will be on the 17th Annual Post Card Exhibit, at the Mercer County Historical Museum on Sunday afternoon, November 12, 2017.

OUR OLD BOOK CASE

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

This Post Card Photograph of North Wayne Street is rare because the old Street Signs are located in the center of Wayne Street. The Street sign at the center of the intersection reads “BUTLER.” At the top of the Street sign, the round ball reads “RIGHT.” At the next intersection looking north stands the Street sign, which most likely reads “BOUNDARY.”

By 1907, the U.S. Post Office allowed the address side on the back of the post card, to be split in two, so that messages could be written on the left side and the address could be written on the right side. The front of the card contained photographs of local scenes, holiday greetings, advertisements, etc. Therefore, this Post Card has the split side on the back which dates the post card as of 1907 or later.

Many of the early buildings on Wayne Street were built in the 1880’s when the economy was doing well, as the Railroad had arrived at Fort Recovery. The Village had its first newspaper, a Village Hall and Fire Department. The Electric Street Light is suspended above Wayne Street. Electric lights came to Wayne Street, Fort Recovery, in 1900. Several of the business buildings have dates at the top of the front of their buildings. On the East side of the Street, at the Corner, is the old hotel, which burned down, in the late 1950’s. Some readers probably remember the date of that fire?

The automobiles on Wayne Street may be Model T Fords, dated about 1920. The fact that there are automobiles and horses with wagons and/or buggies on this same photograph, illustrates the changing of the transportation of the United States. The automobiles were beginning to enter Fort Recovery’s history.

The importance of these old Post Card Photographs is that they preserve local history. The old Post Card Photographs preserve the history of the events within the Villages; for example, Post Card Photographs preserved the history of the Fort Recovery Jubilee. The Post Card Photographs preserve the history of the Mercer County events. For example, the Post Card Photographs preserve the history of the old Mercer County Courthouse, and the old Mercer County Jail, and the early history of the Mercer County Fairground. The old Post Card Photographs preserve the history of Grand Lake, and the Landings around the Lake.

Many of the old Post Card Photographs have been preserved in the 1978 "*Mercer County History*" book, as well as books about the History of Celina and the Histories of the Villages in Mercer County. The Libraries in Mercer County preserve these local history books for their readers.

On Sunday, November 12, Collectors of Post Card Photographs who will exhibit their collections are Sharon and Bob Poor and Dale Poeppelman. David Gray will exhibit his Mercer County Post Mark collection from old discontinued Post Offices in Mercer County. The Public is invited to bring their post cards to exhibit on Sunday afternoon, November 12. Hundreds of Post Card Photographs and Post Office Post Marks related to Mercer County's historic sites will be on Exhibit at the Mercer County Historical Museum, 130 East Market, Celina, on Sunday, November 12, 2017, 1:00 - 4:00.

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