

# TYRONE GLEANINGS

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## MAYNARD'S RAMBLINGS:

Grumble, grumble, grumble what a bad winter I had, every time I went out I had to rig all up, every morning had to shovel off the sidewalk, many times I sat by the window and watched my nephew plow my driveway and the hardest part was watching the petroleum fellow filling my tank with fuel oil especially knowing the price of that commodity. Grumble, grumble, grumble, then one day as I watched the road grader truck go by making my road so nice for me to get out and travel about I got to thinking about my great-grandparents on my Mother's side that came to this area in 1854. They came from Ohio in October by oxen pulling some sort of a cart or wagon with all of their worldly possessions. They had 5 children with oldest being 9 years old. My great-grandmother was pregnant with another that was born the following March. The country was covered by forest, (no roads) they traveled by trails through the woods. No way can I comprehend how they endured that first winter. Where did they get supplies? What kind of shelter did they put up before winter set in? Think of the wood that had to be cut just to keep the shelter warm for a family of seven. What about the oxen? How did they shelter and feed them? Where did they get water? The questions keep going on and on. I know my Mother told that her grandfather walked to Grand Rapids and carried supplies home before the railroad came through to Kent City.

The family came through in fine shape although two didn't fair as well as the others. The oldest child, Edson, lived in the new settlement of Sparta and had a small business. My grandfather, Avonley, after serving in the Civil War came home and bought the farm and built the brick house where Eli & Donna Roberts live. Charles bought acreage and built the brick house where Ed and Bonnie Robinson live. Roayl, all I know about him is that he was shot and killed at Canada Corners by a Dr. Kuhn. Ella was 18 years old when she went back to Ohio to work for her Aunt but was killed in a buggy accident and is buried at Republic, Ohio. Emma was born in March of 1855 and married Gilbert Hanna, a farmer of Casnovia. They lived ½ mile south of the Junction of M-37 & M-46. Later in life they moved to Casnovia and lived with their daughter, Mae, and son-in-law, Archie haring in the house across from the present post office. Archie was the barber in Casnovia and after his death, Mae moved into the barber shop until her death in 1953. After Emma was born they had another girl, Myrta, who married Will Lauffer and they had a farm on what is now Fruit Ridge. One of their grandsons, Lowell Johnson, has been a long time Tyrone Historical Member.

So ends the story that makes me ashamed to think I sat around in the winter of 2007 & 2008 warm, with a full stomach and grumbled.



Please mark your calendar for the **next 3 meetings at 1:00pm**  
**April 8<sup>th</sup>** at the Township Office big table  
**May 13<sup>th</sup>** at our new place in the old Town Hall building (Hopefully)  
**June 10<sup>th</sup>** same place

We have a new Treasurer – lone Stark. Nellie Afton asked to be relieved of the job and lone very graciously took over for Nellie. We all thank Nellie for the many years she served and the wonderful job she did. Nellie is always the one to volunteer if something is needed and you can always depend on a job well done. Thanks again Nellie!!

We had a very successful renewal drive and many thanks go to all of you. We especially thank those who contributed extra for the society. This helps us in our efforts to preserve our heritage.

We also want to thank George Warren and Doug Klein for going over to Rockford on a busy Saturday to help load a display case that Merry Barron worked to obtain for us -also to Maynard for furnishing the truck to pick it up. Thanks to Mary Portell, her husband and son for coming down to the village office to unload the case and to the village for storing it until we are able to move into the old town hall. Thanks goes to Harold Hall for donating an April 14, 1958 Sparta Reminder.

A big thank you goes to the Kent City/Casnovia Lions Club for their generous contribution. Thanks also for lone for getting things setup at the old Town Hall for our March meeting and to Bob Brott for furnishing the program. We had a good turnout of 19 people.

Since the last Gleanings we have lost three members:

\*Mildred Weston passed away Nov. 20, 2007 at 94 years of age. Mildred had lived in the area all her life and had been a long time Historical member.

\*Annabelle Felgate -age 80 passed away Dec. 20, 2007. She was a daughter of Harry and Bessie Saur. Harry was Postmaster at Kent City for many years.

\*Randall Clark passed away Jan. 9, 2008 at the age of 81. Randall operated Clark Insurance for many years and was very active in the community.

Our sympathies go to their families.

From the Casnovia Herald March 26, 1915-

*A human skeleton was found on Mr. B.F. Jones farm that had been there for many years. No one knows who it was. Old Mr. Sweet disappeared many years ago after selling 80 acres of land but it is said he died in Arkansas.*

Kent City Journal May 18, 1916-

*Wonder if the high cost of gasoline will decrease the church attendance? (sounds familiar)*

Casnovia Herald July 8, 1910-

*Whitneys Best Flour @2.80 per hundred at the K.C. Mill.*

Casnovia Herald Feb. 12, 1925-

*For Sale. Baby chicks from my good laying strain, Barred Rocks. Bring in your order early. Mrs. Mary Hills. Phone 25-F12, Kent City.*

Jan. 05, 2008

To: Kent City Historical Society

From: L. Wayne Johnson – KCHS Class of 1946

Dear Maynard & All Y'all,

Your recent newsletter for Jan., Feb., & Mar., 2008, gave me cause to write this letter as it had two letters in it about some of my favorite people from some 70 years ago. I refer to Barbara Ritchie, now Seeks, and Wayne & Vernon Moore. I did not know Don Moore although I could have met him if he visited at Wayne & Vernon's abode. I did recall meeting Bruce Moore in those earlier days. My father was Lester Johnson, the carpenter/builder who lived in seven different homes in Kent City during his lifetime. I also grew up in these homes. Lester had a reputation of probably having worked on or built 50% of the homes in Kent City. Lester and I lost my mother Alberta in Feb. 1930. Les remarried in 1936 to a Jane Hawkins of Sand Lake, MI. We lived at the NW corner of Clover St. and North Ave., which used to be called First Ave. in the summer of 1939 when I was 10 yrs. old. Just a short distance of about 30 yards to the north of us was a stone hut that was known as Bill Huyler's hut where Wayne and Vernon Moore lived. I spent a fair amount of my early years getting acquainted with the two Moores. Their father had been an owner of the Mary Jane Creamery which was located a block east of where we lived. That placed it on Main Street west of the High School and next north to the old High School auditorium. I was told that the father and mother Moore had both died a few years previously. Wayne Moore was about 8 years older than Vernon, who was a Jr. in high school in 1938-39. Vernon graduated from KCHS in 1940 and was an all around athlete in Football, Basketball and a first baseman in baseball. Wayne worked to support both Vernon and himself. Vernon also worked to help out. Wayne was an amateur boxer who was very good as a welterweight and then a few years later as a middleweight. He fought for several years in the Grand Rapids Golden Gloves first as a Rookie amateur and after two years in a weight class, he fought in the Open category. I recall his winning in three different years.

Vernon would play ball with me, both softball and football. He and Wayne gave me a set of 10 foot long SKIS, that I learned to use off the small hill near the road in front of their hut and later on the hill one mile north of Kent City. Vernon also spent a great deal of time practicing Punting the football with Paul Emmorey (Class of 42) and Paul became quite adept at punting the ball. He was the Varsity punter even as a sophomore. In the fall of 1941, playing Sparta, Paul kept Sparta playing most of the game in their own end of the field and our prior Coach Gingrich came back to witness the Sparta game and sought out Paul to tell him that he had done a great Job punting that afternoon. We lost to Sparta that day, but Bob Stein got us down inside the 10 yard line to almost tie mighty Sparta with Sam Ketchman coaching them against Gil Powers a very good coach for KC.

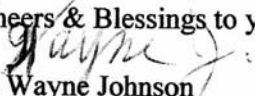
The Huyler hut was just that. It was a square built small house about 12 Feet Square with walls made of large stones and mortar with a tarpaper roof. They had a dirt floor with running water plumbing and a large wood stove for heat. They had an outhouse to relieve themselves and a large barren 6 foot square and 6 foot deep hole in the ground next door where they would store some foods. (PERISHABLE)

Near the southeast corner of the hut was an early Model T Ford that did no longer run. All of us kids played in that car trying to play drive it. One afternoon after school, 10 year old Barbara Ritchie and I were play driving the Model T. I was in the driver's seat when all of a sudden Barbara put her foot up on the windshield. It did not hold the weight of her foot and leg as it gave way and left her shocked and a bit cut just above her ankle. She was bleeding quite a bit. We both ran to my house for help. No one was home. I grabbed a towel and wrapped it tightly over the cut. She got on her bike and rode it to her house about two blocks away. I believe her mother was home and called her dad Charlie at school. He advised both Barb and her mother that they needed to go see Doc Yegge about 3 or 4 blocks up town. Charlie rushed home and they took Barb to see the Dr. Doc Yegge tended to Barbara and closed the cut. Barb was sore for several days. We were both admonished for playing in the Model T. I got grounded for a month.

Several townspeople were so upset over the Model T that they had it condemned and taken to the Junk yard out East of Kent City within the week.

Vernon entered the U.S. Navy along with others of his class of 1940 and he was at Pearl Harbor on the infamous day of Dec. 9, 1941. I recall that he was in the hospital at Pearl, whereas, his other classmates were at sea on one of the aircraft carriers. I recall that Frank (Bud) Shoemaker was one of those and Leslie VanBelkum was another. Vernon wrote to me right after that attack and cautioned me about going into the service. In the late summer of 1949, Vernon worked next to me at the Larsen Canning Factory, but that is another tale I could spin about him as again he had a great good influence on me.

Cheers & Blessings to y' all,

  
L. Wayne Johnson

-L. Wayne Johnson of Maple Grove, Minnesota wrote this letter reminiscing of some of his remembrances of his youth in Kent City. The letter is so interesting with a little history of Kent City that we are sharing it with all our members.

*Contributed by Bob Salisbury:*

### **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

And a very happy Mother's Day to all the ladies who are mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, mother-in-laws, aunts, great-aunts, godmothers, or just looked up to as a mother by anyone. May 11 is your special day!!

#### **When I'm An Old Lady** a poem from somewhere

When I'm an old lady, I'll live with each kid  
And bring so much happiness just as they did.  
I want to pay back all the joy they've provided.  
Returning each deed! Oh, they'll be so excited!  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)

I'll write on the wall with reds, whites and blues.  
I'll bounce on the furniture wearing my shoes.  
I'll drink from the carton and then leave it out  
I'll stuff all the toilets and oh, how they'll shout!  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)

When they're on the phone and just out of reach.  
I'll get into things like sugar and bleach.  
Oh, they'll snap their fingers and then shake their head  
And when that is done, I'll hide under my bed!  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)

When they cook dinner and call me to eat,  
I'll not eat my green beans or salad or meat.  
I'll gag on my okra, spill milk on the table.  
And when they get angry I'll run if I'm able!  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)

I'll sit close to the TV, through the channels  
I'll click;  
I'll cross both eyes just to see if they stick.  
I'll take off my socks and throw one away!  
And play in the mud 'til the end of the day  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)

And later in bed, I'll lay back and sigh:  
I'll thank God in prayer and then close my eyes.  
My kids will look down with a smile slowly  
creeping.

And say with a groan, "She's so sweet when she's  
sleeping!"

March 26, 1915

**KENT CITY  
ROLLER MILLS**  
Flour, Feed, Hard and Soft  
Coal  
Pipe Fitting and Machine  
Lathe Work.  
**C. H. Whitney, Prop**  
Kent City, Mich.

**O YE FARMERS!**

No doubt ye are the peo-  
ple, and wisdom shall  
die with you. But you  
should see

**J. A. SAUR**  
Before Buying  
**FARM IMPLEMENTS.**

Exclusive Agents for the

**HAPPENINGS  
AROUND  
KENT CITY**

Mary Anderson is entertaining  
the mulpns.  
Archie Brott was a Grand Rap-  
ids visitor, Tuesday.  
Wall paper as low as 3 cents a  
double roll, at Perham's.  
Riley Thompson has for sale,  
two dozen fine laying hens.  
Mr. Elder of Portland, Ind., has  
been visiting his niece, Mrs. Ar-  
chie Brott.  
Dr. and Mrs. Miller and Mrs. C.  
S. Parks were Grand Rapids vis-  
itors, Thursday.  
Surveyors being made for a new  
macadam street on Muskegon av-  
enue, and North Main street.  
Ernest Kriger and family of  
Grand Rapids, are spending a  
few days visiting relatives here.  
Mrs. West Clawson of Albion,  
was called to Kent City by the  
illness of her sister, Mrs. Sara Con-  
roy.  
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Huyler at-  
tended the funeral of Mr. Huyler's  
aunt, Mrs. Solon Daggett at  
Conklin, Saturday.  
G. K. Playter and A. H. Saur  
spent Thursday and Friday fish-  
ing at Hess Lake. They brought  
home about forty fish.

J. A. Saur was a Grand Rapids  
visitor, Tuesday.  
Leslie Gillam made a business  
trip to Middleville, Monday.  
Miss Lena Howard visited friend  
in Grand Rapids, over Sunday.  
Something new—Get your initial  
post cards of Perham. 10c a  
package  
Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Ausin visited  
their son, E. E. Austin and wife,  
Tuesday.  
Carl Johnson of Sparta, spent  
Saturday night and Sunday with  
Lowe'll Saur.  
Mrs. Kocher of Sparta, visited  
her son, Or'o and family, Monday  
and Tuesday.  
Mrs. Oscar Johnson and Miss  
Josie Murray were Grand Rapids  
visitors, Tuesday.  
The party having J. A. Saur's  
fence stretchers, will please re-  
turn them at once.  
Mrs. L. C. Brink of Casnovia,  
was an over Sunday visitor with  
her mother, Mrs. Geo. Minnick.  
The skating rink closed Satur-  
day night for the season. An  
unusually large crowd was in at-  
tendance.  
Arthur Brevitz of Detroit was  
an over Sunday visitor at the  
home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs.  
Fred Brevitz.  
School closed Friday night for  
the spring vacation, and the

**NORTH TYRONE**

H. D. Smith is numbered with the  
lucky ones now to possess twin  
heifer calves, born February 27.  
Last Thursday Tyrone was treat-  
ed to real moving pictures with the  
big caterpillar snow plow cleaning  
out our state road. Nothing but  
snow stood in its way and its four  
wings simply plowed a beautiful  
wide street with banks ten ft. high  
on either side, and a center space  
wide enough for two Greyhounds  
to pass. It drew a crowd of sight-  
seers.

**COUNTY LINE**

Leo Longcore lost a valuable cow  
Monday.  
Mrs. Haglend is on the sick list  
this week.  
Bert Longcore will soon move  
back on the John Landheer farm.  
Mrs. John Johnson and family  
visited Mrs. Burwald Friday night.  
Fred Burwald is working at the  
new T. B. hospital in Grand Rap-  
ids.  
Henry Cooper has traded his  
Ford touring car for a Ford road-  
ster.  
First Reform Church expect to  
build a new home for the new  
preacher.  
Miss Margaret Johnson and  
Frances Johnson and sister called on  
Charlotte Haglend Sunday.  
Charley Sinclair has sold his

# THE SENIOR CLASS

— of the —

Kent City High School

PRESENTS

## “SAFETY FIRST”

April 17, 1936 8 P. M.

— at the —

CASNOVIA AUDITORIUM

ADMISSION

ADULTS: 25c CHILDREN 15c  
Reserve seats may be procured at Saur's Store

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Jack Montgomery—a young husband .....                                  | Chadwick Boak     |
| Mabel Montgomery—Jack's wife, pity her .....                           | Lucille Stream    |
| Virginia Bridger—Mabel's sister .....                                  | Pauline Shaw      |
| Jerry Arnold—an unsuccessful fixer .....                               | Don Peterson      |
| Mr. McNutt—a defective detective .....                                 | Ray Johnson       |
| Elmer Flannel—awfully shrinking .....                                  | Howard Shaw       |
| Abon Ben Mocka—the terrible Turk .....                                 | Morris Shirk      |
| Zuleka—a tender Turkish maiden, the cause of all the trouble—<br>..... | Alice Jean Hubbel |
| Mary Ann O'Finnerty—a cook with an unlimited imagination—<br>.....     | Edna Elkins       |
| Mrs. Barrington-Bridger—the inevitable mother-in-law—<br>.....         | Nellie De Young   |
| Charles Ritchie—Director   |                   |

### SYNOPSIS

ACT I—Sitting room in Jack's home—What happened to Zuleka.

ACT II—Same scene, a month later—What happened to Jack and Jerry.

ACT III—Mrs. Bridger's garden, three weeks later—What happened to Mary Ann.

NOTE: During ACT III, the curtain will be lowered a few moments to indicate a lapse of three hours.

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Lucille Stream    | -now Harris |
| Pauline Shaw      | -now Mosher |
| Alice Jean Hubbel | -now Mooney |
| Edna Elkins       | -deceased   |
| Nellie DeYoung    | -now Afton  |