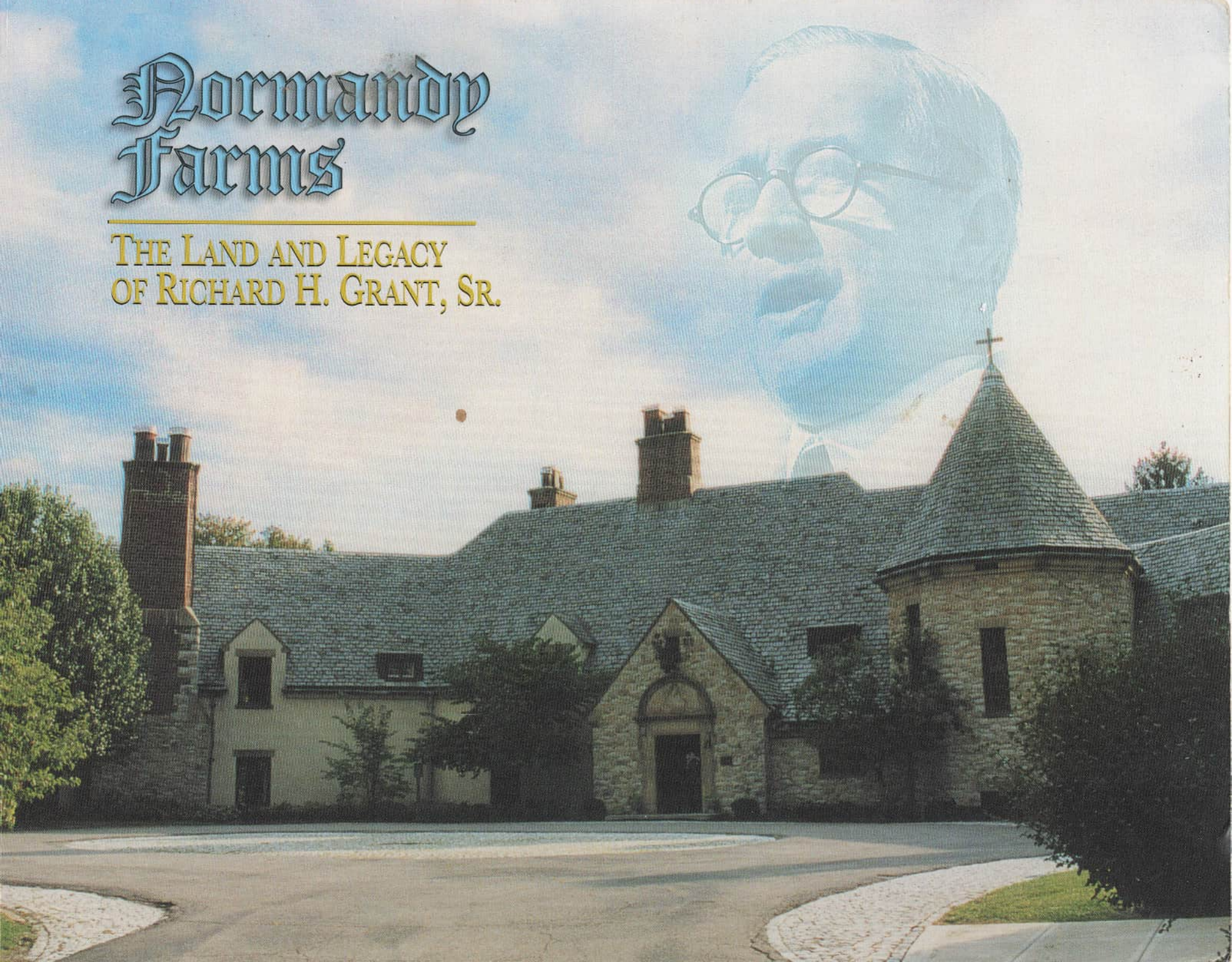
Normandy Farms

The Land and Legacy of Richard H. Grant, Sr.



Normandy Farms:

The Land & Legacy of Richard H. Grant, Sr.

Dear Lynn:
You are the
inspiration and
motivation of
this volume -
Take a big bow.
Love always
Celia

Lynn -
Hope you enjoy -
This never would have
come into being without
you!
Much Love,
Bob Moore

Lynn - this book
bears your mark. You
prodded us to get busy.

A publication of
The Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society
89 West Franklin Street · Centerville, Ohio 45459

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents ____ v
Explanatory Forward ____ vi
Prologue ____ vii
Acknowledgements ____ viii
Richard H. Grant, Sr., A Brief Biography ____ 1
Normandy Farms: A Working Estate ____ 35
The History of Normandy United Methodist Church ____ 57
Grant Park ____ 71
Grant Nature Center ____ 91
Color Insert ____ 105
Normandy Elementary School ____ 121
A Walking Tour of the Normandy Mansion and Grounds ____ 133
Appendices ____ 175
- A. Timelines ____ 177
- B. Family Trees (Grants and Kings) ____ 193
- C. Articles and Letters pertaining to the Grants and Normandy ____ 197
- D. List of Maps with notes on scale and usage ____ 204
- E. Associated Websites ____ 205

Bibliography ____ 207
Index ____ 211

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Explanatory Foreword

Callouts and sidebar information appear in gray boxes such as this.

National Cash Register Company is also known as NCR or "The Cash."

Reynolds & Reynolds is also known as R&R.

Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company became DELCO, which was acquired by United Motors and later became General Motors also known as GM.

The first construction on the Grant's estate was the cabin variously known as Rockridge Lodge, Rock Creek Cabin, Rock Creek Lodge, Rock Creek Park, the Grant Cabin and after being destroyed by fire in the late 1960s, The Chimneys.

Alexandersville-Bellbrook Pike or Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road became Alex-Bell Road, (aka) A-B Road

Bookwalter Road became Normandy Lane and then became Paragon Road and Normandy Lane.

Normandy Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church became Normandy United Methodist (UM) Church

Grant Life Science Center became the Grant Nature Center in 1979.

Proposed I-777, bypass became I-675 connector between I-70 and I-75.

Richard Grant, Sr. was known as Richard or Dick

Richard Jr. was known as Richard, Brudie (in his early years), or Rick until the passing of his father, when he was known as Dick.

Richard III is known as Richard, Rick, or Ricky.



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Prologue

Normandy Farms: Community Legacy

Richard Hallam Grant, 1878—1957

"If you would see the man's monument, look around."
—said of Architect Christopher Wren by his son.

As we view the monuments of Richard H. Grant, who loved the land and his home, the entrepreneurial spirit of the man himself is evident in several facilities enjoyed by our community today.

Normandy's impact might surpass all the dreams he held for his mansion and farms. Now we survey Normandy United Methodist Church, Grant Park, Normandy Elementary School and Grant Nature Center, all associated with his name, which last as enhancements for residents of all ages.

Somewhat like early residents of Centerville, who built houses of limestone for permanence, Grant also constructed his mansion and appurtenances to stand the test of time. *Town and Country* magazine in a 1931 article, called the house "a monument to present-day craftsmanship."

Ironically, though his home has survived, a complex of farm buildings was demolished to make way for upscale housing and Interstate 675, which cut across fertile fields and woodlands that once comprised Normandy Farms.

His wealth was acquired in a career that spanned more than forty years in sales, distribution and management, as a highly successful business and community leader both in Dayton and Detroit. After stints with National Cash Register Co., as sales manager and general manager of Delco Light Co., he rose in management to head the Chevrolet division of General Motors Corp. and be named to the GM board of directors. Later he became prominent in local business circles with the purchase of the Reynolds and Reynolds Co. in 1938, a company still flourishing today.

Mr. Grant died in New York City in 1957 and his funeral was conducted by the Rev. Milford Ater in the chapel of Normandy United Methodist Church, Grant's former living room.

He is buried in Centerville cemetery, as is his wife Laura, who passed away in 1970.

Their son, Richard Hallam Grant, Jr., who died in 2001 is also interred in the family plot. Their daughter, Thirza, who died in 1987 was laid to rest in Santa Barbara, California, where she resided.

From the actual building of the $1,000,000 Grant mansion from 1927-30, until its transition to a house of worship in 1955, the property and grounds have captured the interest of the community, as the school, park and nature center evolved from Normandy Farms, once encompassing nearly 800 acres.

As we look around our community, the Grant name and Normandy Farms are perpetuated in these enduring monuments.

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1912 Caricature of Richard Grant by Ray Evans, Published by the Associated Dayton Artists of City of Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, May 1912

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The authors wish to express their profound appreciation to Liz Grant Schroeder, the great-granddaughter of R. H. Grant, Sr., for generously sharing the family archives with its additional photos and documents, many of which have been incorporated into this book. All documents will be channeled to appropriate organizations' archives.

Researchers should contact the Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society for a detailed listing of Grant materials.



Liz Grant Schroeder, great-granddaughter of Richard H. Grant reviewing a proof copy of the Normandy Book with Bob Moore.

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Richard Ralph Hallam Grant



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Richard H. Grant, Sr.
A Brief Biography



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

"Infuse the organization with a great spirit. There will always be opportunity for Inspiration and Leadership."

—R.H. Grant, Sr.

Photographed in 1927, R.H. Grant poses in "period costume" with car #5 of the 1915 model 490 Chevrolet.

SOURCE: GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

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Biography of Richard Ralph Hallam Grant



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

The seaport of Ipswich, Massachusetts at the turn of the 20th century.

In the New England harbor town of Ipswich, Massachusetts, stands the 1636 house in which Richard Ralph Hallam Grant was born November 26, 1878.

Richard Grant's father, George Franklin Grant, was a Scottish sea captain who ran cargo ships from Boston to Savannah and managed to retire by age 40. Richard's grandfather sailed clipper ships (square-riggers) to China and other Far Eastern countries. Mr. Grant's multigenerational seafaring heritage may have influenced the design of the mansion's recreational room (ballroom) as the "Shiproom" with its prevailing nautical theme.

Richard's mother, Anne Hallam Grant, immigrated to America from Nottingham, England, with her two sisters and was quite well traveled. Standing a mere four feet, six inches tall, Anne was noted for her strong-willed but gentle nature which she passed along to Richard. She took Richard to England five times during his childhood and, using a philosophy which many English believed, put the responsibility of raising her child on the child himself. It was under her guidance that Richard entered Harvard in 1898.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Richard Grant, Sr., circa 1915.

His mother gave him a lump sum for his four years of college expenses, but by graduating in three years, he was able to conserve his funds. Richard graduated from Harvard University, A.B., in 1901. [Editor's note: This graduation date was erroneously reported as 1904 in his obituary and some subsequent materials.]

Anne hoped her son would become a minister, but he turned his public speaking talent toward salesmanship.

His first sales position was in the book department of Boston department store, the Jordan-Marsh Company. Still honing his skills, he enrolled as a student employee at the New England Telephone & Telegraph Company. Following training he worked as a salesman for NET&T for three years. Whereas shipping and rail transportation had been the growth industries of the 19th century, Grant became aware that manufacturing automation, communication, automotive transportation, and electrification would be the industries of the 20th century.

The N.C.R. Years

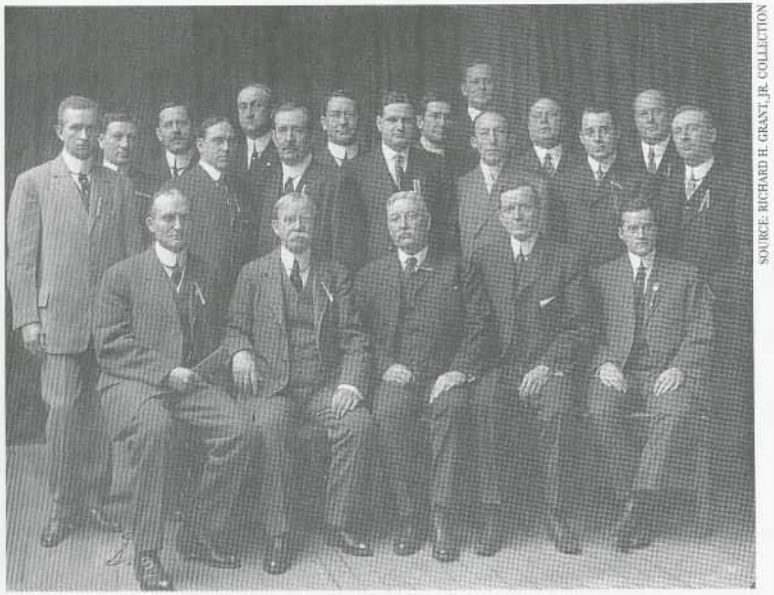
In 1904, Grant moved to Dayton and was hired as a clerk at the National Cash Register Company (NCR, aka. "The Cash") under the employment of founder, John. H. Patterson. Grant arrived here to take his $28-per-week job virtually penniless after losing his total resources of $125 en route. Coincidentally, this was the year that a 1904 Ohio State University graduate with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, Charles Franklin Kettering, was hired by Edward Deeds at NCR at $50 per week. It was also the same year that fellow graduate and future president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, graduated from Harvard.



SOURCE: SOUTHERN OHIO BIOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION

John H. Patterson, circa 1927

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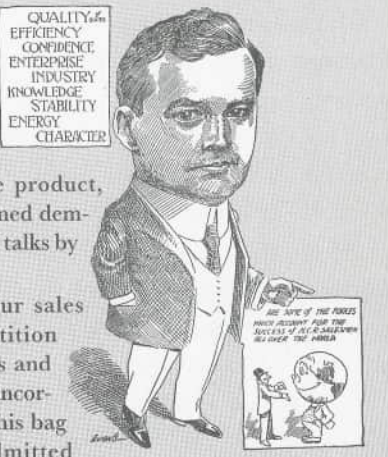
SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

NCR's 1910 Hundred Point Club sales leaders meet in Dayton. In front (seated, left to right) are Edward A. Deeds, John H. Patterson, Robert Callahan, Thomas Watson and Richard H. Grant. John H.'s training was so good that between 1910 and 1930 one-sixth of top U.S. executives came from NCR.

Grant's biography may appear to have him jumping from company to company. But, in truth, his meteoric professional progression brought him into spheres of management in several seminal industries which were developing during the second industrial revolution and advancement of capitalism. Because he was working his way up the management chain, he rarely lost contact or influence with companies through which he had progressed on his way to the Board of Directors of General Motors and Chairman of the Board at Reynolds & Reynolds.

Patterson's marketing principles as outlined by R. H. Grant in *Fortune Magazine*, 1933:

1. Have the right product.
2. Know the potential of each market area.
3. Constantly educate your salesmen about the product, making them listen to canned demonstrations and learn sales talks by heart.
4. Constantly stimulate your sales force and foster competition among them with contests and comparisons. (Grant later incorporated booby-prizes in this bag of tricks, though he admitted Patterson would not. "He believed that humor had no place in business.")
5. Cherish simplicity in all presentations.
6. Use all kinds of advertising. (Patterson used over 100.)
7. Constantly check up on your salesman, but be reasonable with them and make no promises you can't keep.



CARICATURE BY RAY EVANS

John Patterson had a powerful impact on an impressionable 26-year-old Grant. Later writings of Grant's business philosophy reverberate with principles he learned from Patterson as he rapidly progressed through the NCR sales force. Decades later, in a 1938 article for *Fortune Magazine*, Grant stated that the adaptation of Patterson's principles had been responsible for Grant's successful selling career.

While Richard Grant Sr. was working at "The Cash," he met and married Laura Elinor Williams of Dayton on September 1, 1906. Laura, born in Dayton on October 8, 1883, was five years Richard's junior. Richard and Laura traveled throughout the U.S. as he trained the sales force for NCR. It was on September 9, 1908, during a stint in St. Louis that their daughter, Thirza Elinor Grant was born. The unusual name, Thirza, came from a close personal friend, Thirza Brown, who had been a soloist at their wedding.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Wedding Photos of Laura Williams Grant & Richard Hallam Grant, September 1, 1906.

The early years of their marriage were financially challenging for the Grants. Richard was earning approximately $55 per week which allowed the young couple to hire a cook, who also did cleaning for $4 per week. Laura Grant was proud of the clothes she tailored for herself and her daughter in an effort to be economical. The Grants subsequently moved to Atlanta and then to Philadelphia while Richard spent up to six weeks at a time on the road training the NCR salesmen. Later as the Grants settled into a home office assignment for NCR, they moved to 801 Oakwood Avenue, Dayton, just south of the NCR plant. Their son, Richard H. Grant, Jr., was born on January 18, 1913. Mr. Tom Watson, Sales Manager for NCR, stood as Richard Jr.'s godfather. The family called Richard Jr. "Brudie", a name which stuck until adulthood, because Thirza as a small child could not say "brother" plainly.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

R.H. Grant, Jr. at 9 months.

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By 1913 Grant was Assistant Sales Manager of NCR under Tom Watson, but as the five rivers of Dayton rose in March, all this was about to change.

During the 1913 flood, Grant proved his value. John Patterson was put in charge of Dayton's flood relief program, and at the height of the flood, NCR built a rescue boat every seven seconds. Patterson, in turn, designated Richard Grant to head flood relief food distribution with 48 stations under his control. Since Grant had to remain on site, a National Guardsman was posted at his Oakwood Avenue home to protect his family and property during his absence.

After 18 years with NCR, Tom Watson had been fired (technically resigned) on November 28, 1913, and John Patterson simultaneously chose Richard Grant to replace Watson as Sales Manager and Director of NCR. Warily, Grant agreed to accept the post on a two-year provisional basis. John Patterson was a man of legendary petulance and eccentricities, and Grant had no desire to follow in Watson's footsteps this time.

Grant was the beneficiary of an extensive sales mentorship under John H. Patterson while serving him faithfully in many ways. He often stood preceding Mr. Patterson in reception lines because



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

R.H. Grant, Sales Manager at NCR, circa 1915.

THE WATSON CONNECTION

For a few years prior to the 1913 flood, Mr. Patterson had been traveling in Europe. Not only was he globalizing sales for NCR but also dodging a federal indictment for "questionable" sales practices. When the Great 1913 Flood hit Dayton, Patterson returned to oversee the city's flood relief and reconstruction efforts.

During Patterson's absence Tom Watson, Sales Manager and Director, had doubled NCR sales. Patterson returned to a litany of positive comments such as "You were hardly missed." or "That Watson sure did a bang-up job while you were gone." Watson was also pushing for the advancement of punch-card technology which further exacerbated the fissure between him and Patterson.

According to legend, during a lunch hour, Patterson had all of Mr. Watson's belongings brought from his office and put onto the front lawn of the manufacturing facility and set afire. Upon his return Watson was greeted with the flaming remnants of a mass which had previously been his office...thus coining the term, and becoming the first man "fired" in corporate history.

Whether that vignette is true or not, it inexorably changed Tom Watson's fate. Mr. Watson found himself without a company, took his nest-egg of $50,000 and a Cadillac, and migrated to New York where he ran a buggy trade out of a hardware store, selling pianos, organs, and sewing machines in the surrounding countryside, often taking animals in trade. Soon he managed to start up a little company based on the punch card technology with which he was so enamored—International Business Machine Company (IBM).



Grant and Watson remained friends, as did their sons, throughout their lifetimes.

Tom Watson, Sr.

PHOTO SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION



SOURCE: ROBERT J. MOORE COLLECTION, PHOTO: SMITH BROTHERS

Photo of the Dayton Flood from the third floor of the Davies Building looking west at Fourth Street and Main Street, 4:45 p.m. March 25, 1913. Photo taken by the Smith Brothers.

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SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Daughter Thirza at age 5, circa 1913.

Patterson knew that Richard had a great memory for names and faces. Richard Grant formed lifelong friendships with coworkers Charles Kettering, Edward Deeds, and Tom Watson, Sr., during his NCR years. The Grants, as a couple, formed several personal and social friendships during this time period including, George and Elsie Mead, Fred and Ethel Rike, the Huffmans, the Schencks, the Elders, and Edwin S. Reynolds, Sr., and family.

THE DELCO YEARS

Charles Kettering was hired by NCR in 1904 to electrify the cash register. Within two years, by 1906, he had accomplished this task. But he and Edward Deeds saw a much greater potential for the application of electrification in many areas of modern American life. They formed the "Barn Gang," working out of Deed's barn at 319 Central Avenue in Dayton with a group of other young inventors, including William A. Chryst. On July 23, 1908, they created the first reliable ignition system thereby electrifying the car. On July 21, 1909, Chryst chose the name Dayton Engineering Laboratories Co. (DELCO) and the company was incorporated.



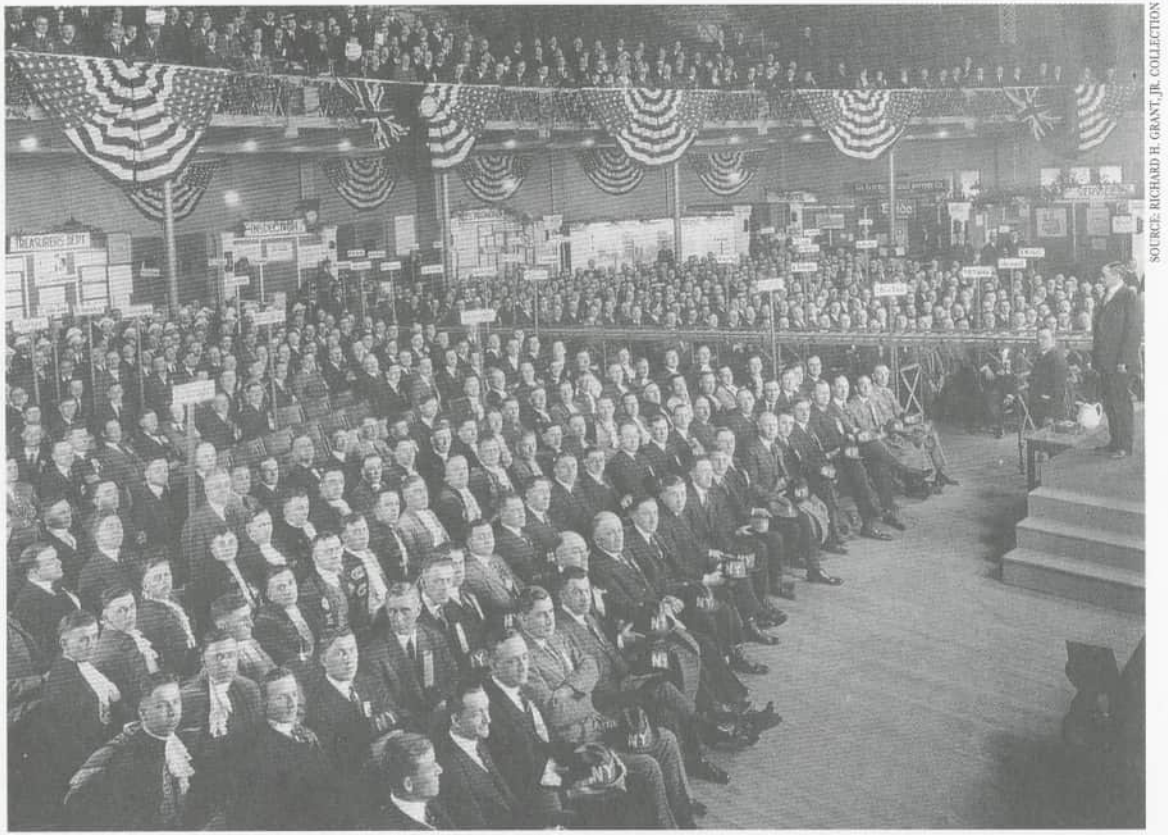
SOURCE: SOUTHERN OHIO BIOGRAPHICAL ASSN., PHOTO: UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD

Edward A. Deeds



SOURCE: SOUTHERN OHIO BIOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION

Charles F. Kettering



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Richard H. Grant, Sr., addressing the 1921 Delco Light sales convention.

By 1911 the group had created the first electric self-starter, eliminating the dangerous hand-crank mechanism previously used to start automobiles. Henry Leland, president of Cadillac, ordered 8,000 ignition systems for his 1910 cars. Based on that order, Kettering resigned his position as "Head Inventor" at NCR. Deeds, still within NCR, became president and Kettering became vice-president of a fledgling DELCO. They both liquidated their assets, selling their life insurance and preferred stock to create a manufacturing facility at Fourth and St. Clair Streets. By 1914, their ignition systems, which also ran the car's lights, were standard equipment on dozens of American cars; over 75,000 starters were sold that year.

Richard Grant joined his former "Cashmates" in July, 1915, as General Manager of the newly-formed DELCO-Light Company with virtually absolute administrative power. Grant had offered to stay with NCR if Patterson would raise his salary to $15,000 annually. Patterson would not, so Grant resigned.

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Kettering and the "Barn Gang" had recently developed a farm lighting system which used a gasoline driven generator linked to wet cell storage batteries. On April 12, 1916, the Dayton Engineering Laboratories Co. shipped the first manufactured model of Delco Light to William Lesher of Vandalia, Ohio. This model carried with it the company motto, "Electricity for every farm," burnt into the generator's wooden chassis cabinet. By the end of the year, the aggressive, DELCO salesmen, trained by Grant, generated more than $15 million in sales.

In 1922 after seven years of sales, a total of nearly 200,000 of the electrical generator plants were in use in the U.S. and around the world. These generators were destined to remain quite popular well into the depression years when Franklin Roosevelt made rural electrification a priority under the National Recovery Act (NRA) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). As the U.S. became more electrified, the overseas market continued to develop in the wake of the technological wave.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Thirza, Laura & Richard, Jr., circa 1917



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Seated front row left, Richard Grant, Charles Kettering and Edward Deeds. First Delco Light farm generator.

1917 found the United States increasingly more involved with World War I (WWI) in Europe. Industrial companies found that increased demand drove their production to higher levels. In 1903,



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Son, Richard Jr. at age 5, circa 1918.

Dayton's own Wright Brothers had developed powered flight. In the years prior to World War I, the Wrights tried to interest the U.S. Army in flying machines. Following Wilbur's death in 1912, Orville approached his friends and fellow inventors of Dayton. Along with nine others, Wright, Deeds, and Kettering formed the Dayton-Wright Airplane Company. Soon after war broke in Europe, the



IF YOU CAN'T JOIN 'EM, BEAT 'EM

Henry Ford

From September, 1908, to the end of 1909, William Durant was picking and choosing the components of his new General Motors. His acquisitions had included Oldsmobile, Cadillac, Welch-Pontiac, Rainier and a dozen other smaller automobile and auto parts manufacturers. Henry Ford, who wished to turn his manufacturing endeavors toward farm equipment, agreed to be bought out if Durant would provide $8 million in cash. Durant's prior spending spree had left him cash poor so he countered with an offer of $2 million up front with the balance plus 5 percent to be paid over the subsequent three years. Despite the GM board of directors' approval, Durant's banking advisors, National City Bank of New York, disputed the Ford Company's worth. Ford was inflexible and the deal fell through. It would be nearly 20 years before GM could out-produce and outsell the Model T.

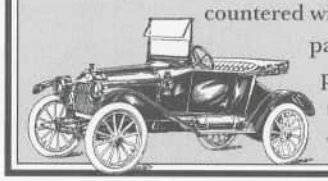


PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, COOLIDGE ERA COLLECTION

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military sought the expertise of these midwestern inventor/industrialists. Dayton-Wright began building DeHavilland warplanes at the rate of 40 per day, 3,500 total in its new Delco Moraine Building. By the end of the war the company had 8,000 employees.

Throughout the World War I (WWI) years, United Motors, and several other automotive parts providers, were consolidating and reorganizing to create the new General Motors (GM). General Motors had been organized on September 16, 1908. But a full decade of metamorphoses, under two tenures by William C. Durant as president, in contention with the DuPonts of New Jersey, brought the world's largest corporate giant to its birth. May, 1916, marked the acquisition of the DELCO companies by United Motors along with AC (sparkplugs). Following the war, in 1919, GM acquired Dayton Wright along with United Motors DELCO's. Mr. Grant was retained as General Manager and was made president of DELCO-Light in 1920. During World War I, Grant actively supported the War Chest and Liberty Loan drives and chaired the Dayton Housing Committee.

After WWI Dayton-Wright readapted its production lines to construct wooden steering wheels, but soon hard rubber and later plastics became the materials of choice for accessory production. Dayton Wright became Inland Manufacturing, and by 1939, Inland made more than 425 different products for hundreds of different customers. One of the primary customers was the Frigidaire Company which needed rubber ice-cube trays, ice cream-cabinet lids, and motor mounts.

The Frigidaire Years

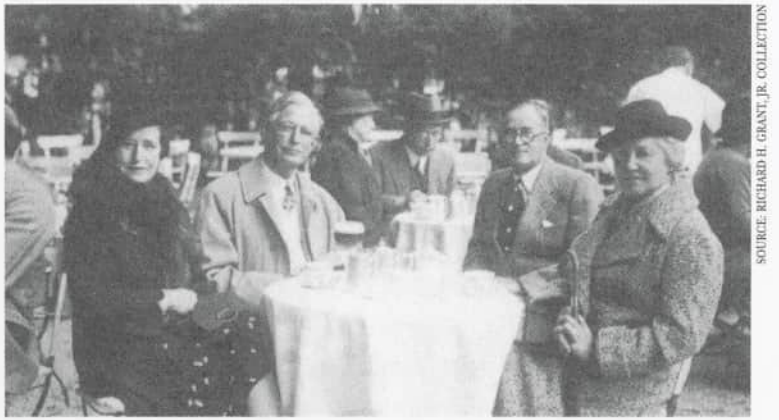
Back in 1913, the year of the Great Dayton Flood, Daytonian Al W. Mellows invented the water-cooled refrigerator. Two years later he moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to begin manufacturing, and a year after that he moved operations to a rented organ factory loft in Detroit where he continued to make his wood cabinet refrigerators.

Showmanship—Look at the length of this sentence!

An article in the May 20, 1923, *Dayton Journal* reflected Grant's pitch for the new electric refrigerator:

"Better Than Ice"

"People may have believed, once, that there could be no better household refrigeration than with ice. People who have experienced the advantages of modern, electrical refrigeration, such as Frigidaire affords, readily come to realize that once again modern invention has stepped in with a remedy for the drawbacks and handicaps of an out-of-date, makeshift method—and they understand, as householders generally will realize, one of these days, that electrical refrigeration is now an established, positive fact, and that with its automatic, labor-saving operation, its constant, uniformly low temperature and its special features of ice making and dessert freezing, it is as far ahead of the ordinary ice-box as a modern automobile is ahead of the horsedrawn vehicle that was the best to be had, a generation ago."



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Laura Grant, Fred Rike, Richard Grant, Ethel Rike in Baden Baden, Germany

Mellow's first "Guardian" refrigerator was produced on August 17, 1916, but underfinancing and bleak sales forced him to sell his company within two years after producing a mere 40 units. William Durant, president of GM, bought the Guardian Frigerator Company, and the following year, after the approval of the board of directors, sold it outright as the Frigidaire Corporation to General Motors.

Priced at $850 each, 200 Frigidaires were sold in 1919. Corrosive brine was used as the coolant, but temperature as well as moisture changes caused the plywood cabinets to split. Subsequently the moist seaweed insulation would produce a foul odor. However, 3,000 refrigerators were produced in Detroit by 1921. In that year, according to Laura Grant, Richard Grant convinced Charles Kettering, who then convinced the General Motors company, to move the fledgling refrigerator company to Dayton and to put it under the Delco Light Company.

20,000 Frigidaires were sold in 1924. Delco was making the electric motors and Inland was making the ice trays and seals. Inventor Thomas Midgely, Jr., one of Boss Kettering's research and development crew, created an improved coolant known as "freon ." Unlike previous coolants freon was nontoxic and nonflammable. This would be the coolant of choice for the next 50 years and led to the use of a more efficient air-cooled compressor.

Other notable manufacturers such as Westinghouse, Crosley, General Electric and Kelvinator joined in the 1920s rush to build refrigerators. Under Grant's guidance, innovations such as the

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introduction of freon as a coolant (1928) and the first porcelain enamel on steel exteriors (1926), caused Frigidaire to lead the burgeoning refrigeration field in production and sales. By the end of the decade, Frigidaire provided 50 percent of all the refrigerators in the world.

Frigidaire went on to produce soda fountain equipment, ice cream cabinets, milk and water coolers and in the late '20s began producing air conditioners. At that time, Frigidaire's market share in refrigerators had stabilized at 25 percent.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Alfred P. Sloan, Jr.

By 1926 sales of Frigidaire products so eclipsed the other Delco Light sales that on July 12, it became a separate operating entity, a corporation directly under GM. With his outstanding revitalization of Frigidaire, Richard Grant had caught the eye of Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., President of GM. On February 1, 1924, Grant was advanced to vice president and general sales manager for the Chevrolet Motor Company, directly reporting to Chevrolet General Manager William Knudsen. Elmer G. Biechler replaced Grant as president and general manager of Frigidaire.

For an article which appeared in* The Dayton Journal, *Sunday, May 20, 1923, Grant foretold his own future and that of Dayton:

"The automotive industry has many ramifications. Not only are automobile factories the direct result of this industry, but many other factories which supply various parts used in the final assembly of the automobiles.

"There are probably 8,000 persons in Dayton engaged in the automotive industry in the manufacturing, engineering or sales end of the business.

"Possibly 25 per cent of the people of Dayton are supported through the automotive industry with its various ramifications.

"The work, instead of being centered in one place, is scattered about to a certain extent, and for that reason we often overlook what a tremendous industry it is and how it affects even our own city."



SOURCE: GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

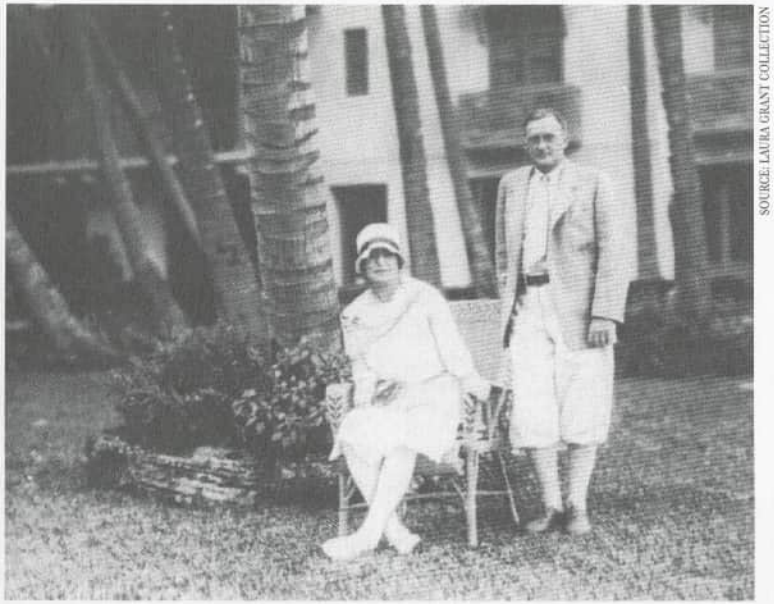
Chevrolet's William Knudsen, General Manager, with Richard H. Grant, V.P., and Sales Manager

Many changes occurred in the decade of the '20s, including railroads losing 40 percent of their passenger business. At the same time, automobile registrations climbed from 3.5 million in 1919 to 29 million ten years later. During the 1920s the Grants had bought a winter home next to Robert and Henrietta Patterson in Miami Beach and a summer retreat on Holes Creek at the outskirts of Dayton from Florence Reynolds. They constructed a cabin on their country property and called it Rock Creek Lodge.

The executives at GM's home office felt Grant should move up to Detroit, but like Charles Kettering, Grant was already interested in starting a farm here in the Dayton area. He rented an apartment in Detroit where he stayed during the week and came home to Oakwood on the weekends to relax.



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SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Richard and Laura at their Miami Beach Home in the 1920s.

THE CHEVROLET YEARS

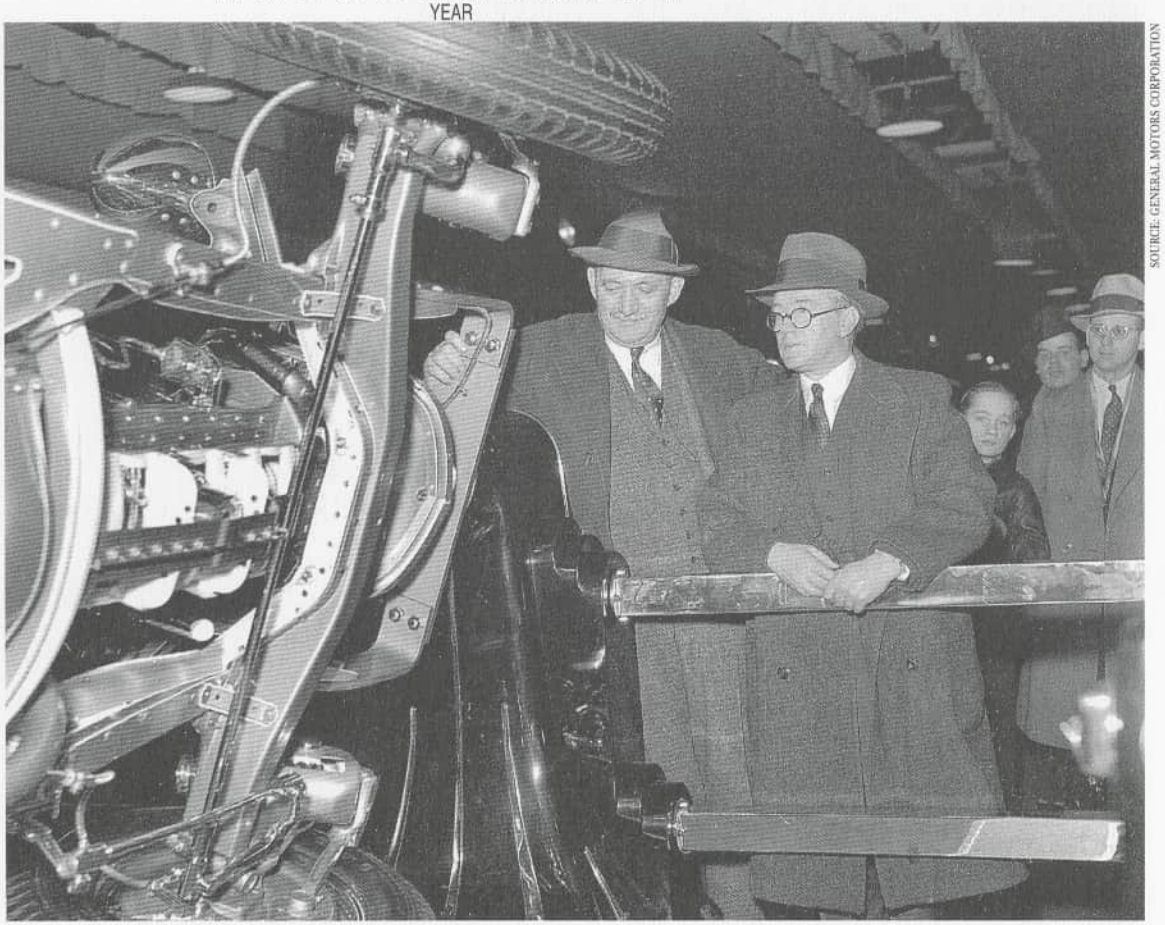
Nearing 50, with twenty plus years of business under his belt, Richard Grant's jawline had softened, his hairline was graying and receding, and he now wore the distinctive round-rimmed eyeglasses popular at the time. But behind those glasses his steely glance, clipped New England accent, and distinctive business acumen remained sharper than ever. His wife, Laura, recalled that Governor James M. Cox of Ohio once referred to Richard as "The Little Napoleon of Selling."

One year after Grant was born in 1878, Signius Wilhelm Poul Knudsen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark (1879). As Grant completed his studies at Harvard, Knudsen began work in a Bronx shipyard. At six feet, three inches tall, he presented a noticeable contrast to the diminutive Grant. Knudsen was all about production. He had repaired locomotives, built bicycles and machined Ford parts. During World War I he had constructed fourteen Ford assembly plants in two years, in addition to the famous Rouge plant and Eagle boats. Henry Ford called him a "production genius."

When William Knudsen was named Chevrolet's General Manager in 1922, the ailing manufacturer made 68,000 cars per year. Grant was named Chevrolet's V.P. and General Sales Manager in early 1924. In that year, Chevy's best efforts produced only 250,000 in sales, while Ford produced more than one million. In the six months when Ford finally retooled from its original Model T to the Model A in 1927, Chevrolet passed Ford and the million car mark for the first time. By 1928, driven by Grant's sales and distribution techniques, and powered by Knudsen's efficiencies, production topped 1,200,000 cars.



Legend has it that Richard Grant, Sr., at the height of his career with Chevrolet, earned an incentive of $1 per car for each sold. Richard, Jr. denied that.



SOURCE: GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

Chevrolet's General Manager, William Knudsen, with Richard H. Grant, Vice President and Sales Manager at one of the countless auto shows they attended each year.

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SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

The Grant's cabin, Rock Creek Lodge on Holes Creek in Washington Township. Their first acquisition on the Farm.

Creating a Great Estate

In 1929, as a reward for his outstanding work at Chevrolet, the GM Directors made Grant Vice President of GM in charge of Sales and Distribution. This narrowed his executive authority while it widened his range of influence. Grant, in turn, rewarded himself with the acquisition and construction of his new home and farm in Washington Township, south of Dayton. This estate became known as Normandy Farms (see page 36). Coincidentally, 1929 saw the greatest stock market crash in our nation's history and the beginning of the next decade as the Great Depression. (See site map for new Grant Estate on page 106.)

Since the early 1920s, the Grants had been traveling to Europe collecting antiques. They had outgrown their Oakwood Avenue home and had been spending weekends and summers at Rock Creek Lodge in Washington Township.

With Grant's continuing advancement in both business and social circles, a larger home for entertaining and housing their extensive antique collection seemed in order. Grant acquired land near the corner of Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road and Bookwalter Road which had an interesting terrain and was not far from their retreat cabin but closer to main roads. (Details of land acquisition on page 37.) In 1927, the Grants broke ground and began to build their country estate. (Architectural details available in the Walking Tour chapter, page 133.)



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

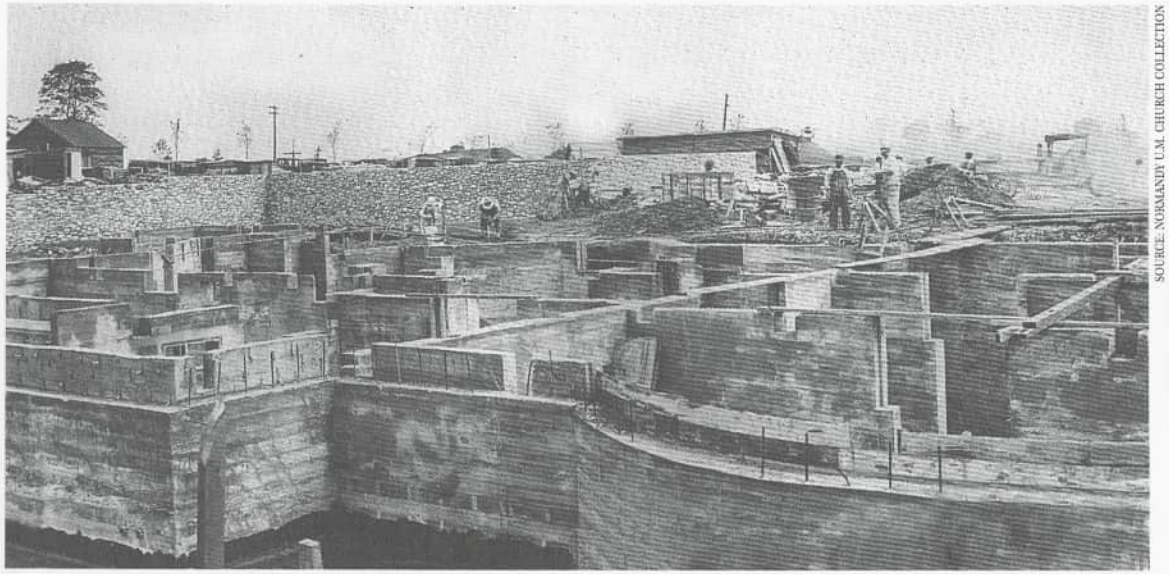
The Holes Creek cabin was also known as the Hunting Lodge.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

The rustic, yet elegant, interior of the Grants' cabin.

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SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The basement foundation from the southeast. The arc on the right of the picture forms the center arc of the south terrace overlooking the lawns and centered over the pool, 1928.

As the mansion neared completion, the Grants convinced Jack Watkins, an English ship steward, and his wife, Winnie, a former children's hospital nurse, to head their domestic staff. The Grants had met Watkins on the *Aquatania* ocean-liner during one of their frequent European voyages. The kitchen was staffed by a French cook and her assistant. The majority of the household and gardening staff were English and Scottish.



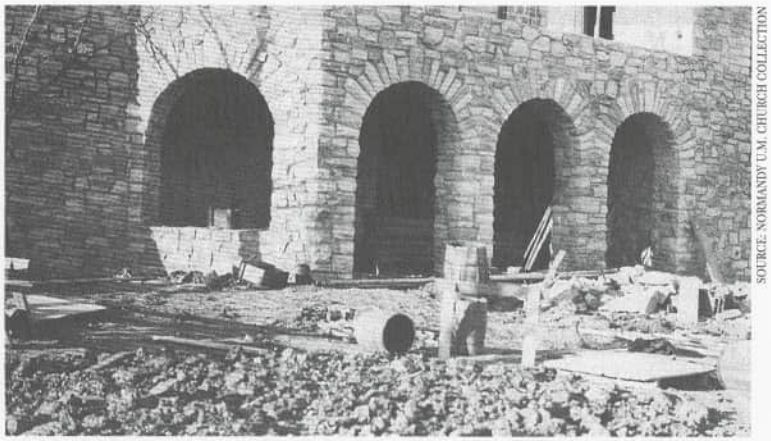
SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Jack Watkins with Thirza's children, Peggy and Eddie Reynolds, III, circa 1935.



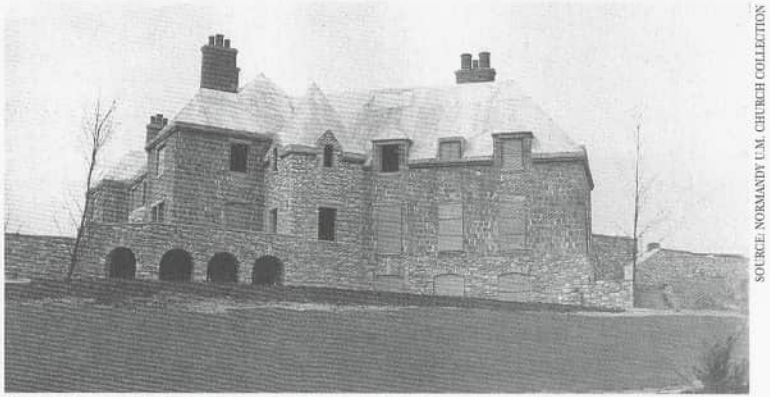
SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Winnie Watkins



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The east entrance to the lower level of the home, known as the cloisters, had hanging lamps in each archway to provide a covered patio leading to the recreation room (Ship Room), the stairwell, and the billiard parlor.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

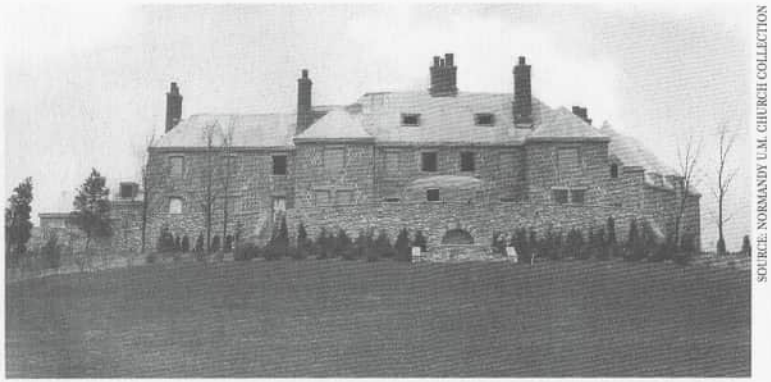
From the southeast, construction nearing completion. The exterior stairway on the right led guests to the lower terrace. The stucco, windows and slate roofing tiles have yet to be applied.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

From the southwest, construction nearing completion. The west wing had the servant's quarters, laundry, and kitchen. To the left of that is the wall which concealed the autocourt and three-car garage.

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SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The landscape architect shipped in seven railcars of trees and shrubs for planting as the building neared completion. Approximately three years and $1,000,000 later, their mansion was complete, the farms acquired, and the essentially self-contained estate was ready to occupy.

On June 21, 1930, the Grants hosted a housewarming party, entertaining more than 250 guests. The Meyer Davis Orchestra, a fourteen-piece "high-society band", came from New York and played from eight o'clock in the evening to six o'clock the following morning. Guests dined on the upper terrace while the band played in front of the portable dance floor on the lower terrace.

Over 10,000 light bulbs lit the grounds as an army of young men from the community provided valet parking. The locals were further caught up in the extravaganza as the two corner groceries in the nearby village of Centerville sold out of many items. A sea of lights sparkled throughout the trees surrounding the swimming pool and creek along side the house. Lights also illuminated the twin pools made by the two dams (the remains of one can still be seen today) as smooth orchestral music floated over the expansive lawns.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Above, left to right, the construction and landscaping of the back (south) of the Normandy mansion. Below left, concrete markers were placed throughout the farm and the mansion grounds. Below right, the main driveway and entrance at completion of construction, circa 1930.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

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SOURCE: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

By the mid-1950s the mansion's shrubbery had filled in to create a lush environment. Window awnings shaded interiors from the prevalent summer sun.

Mr. Grant's position with GM brought him into contact with a wide variety of luminaries of the early 20th century. In California, Hal Roach, a Hollywood Chevrolet dealer, was also the creator of the "Our Gang" comedy troop. So Richard, Jr., and his mother, Laura, met Alfalfa, Spanky and the gang. One of Buick's most successful distributors in California was Charles S. Howard, the owner of stellar thoroughbred Sea Biscuit. Howard's son Lynn, along with Bing Crosby and Pat O'Brien, started the Del Mar Race Track.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

The Great Hall just inside the entrance.



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

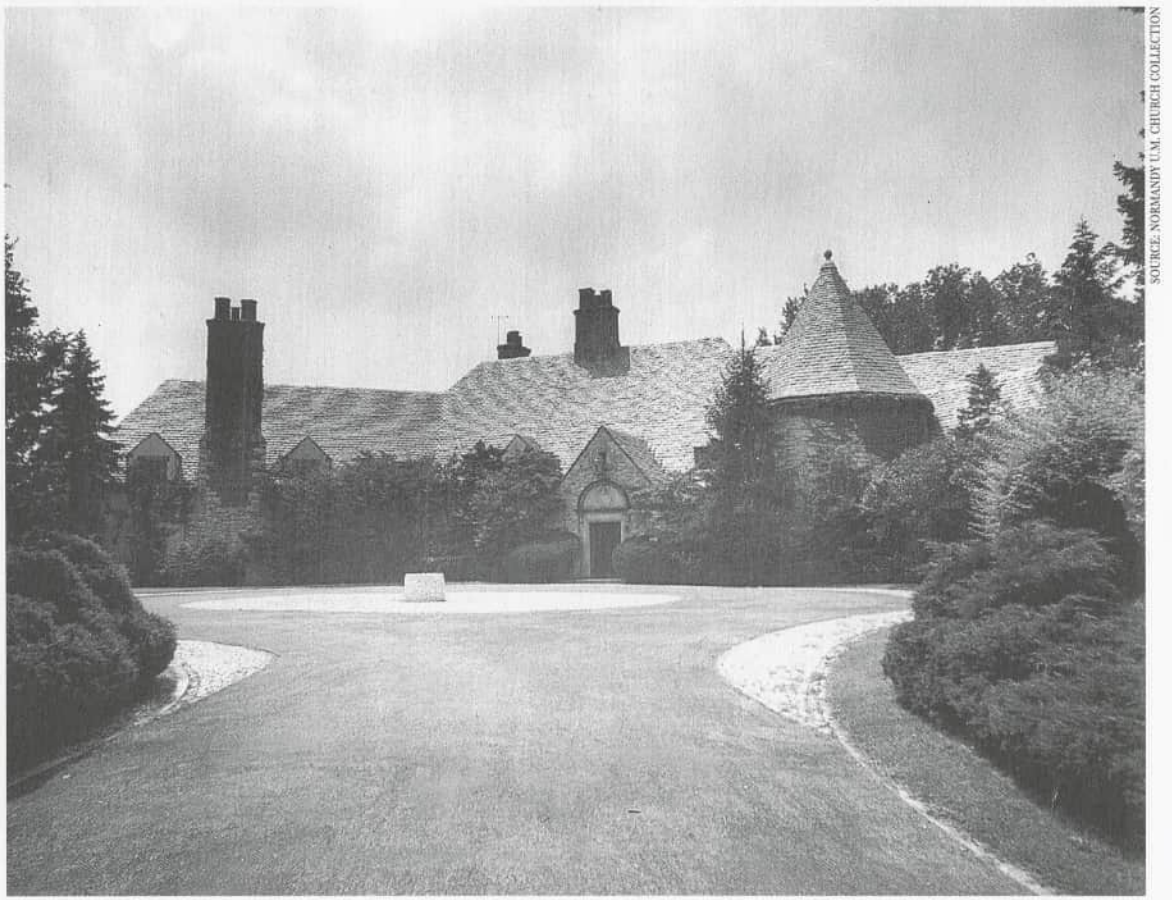
Grant's library, his favorite room.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Above, the living room, also known as the pine room.

Below, mid-1950s lush landscaping. Note wishing well in driveway center.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

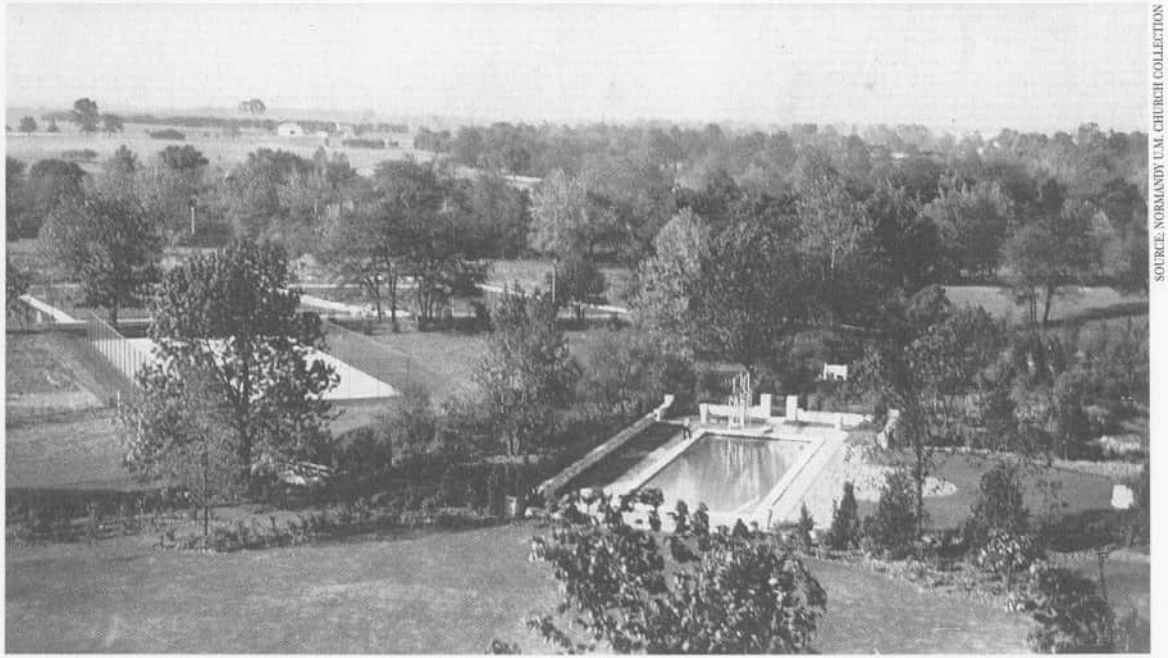
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Throughout the '30s the Grants would often vacation with GM's Chairman of the Board, Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. and his wife on their beautiful 250 foot yacht "The Rene," with crewmembers numbering 48. They went on nine winter cruises throughout the Caribbean and Mexico.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Richard H. Grant and wife, Laura, on Alfred P. Sloan's 250 ft. Yacht, Rene.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Above, the south lawn included the swimming pool, tennis court and vegetable garden. All the land seen to the south was part of Normandy Farms.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The farm on Normandy Lane had several barns, a dairy, and the farm manager's home. At its largest Normandy Farms encompassed approximately 790 acres.

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The General Motors (GM) Years

Most of the years that Grant was at Normandy, work required that he commute by train to GM in Detroit to fulfill his responsibilities as Vice President in charge of Sales and Distribution.

GM's sales for the first six years, 1918 to 1923, had totaled $2.8 billion with a net income of $200 million. In the five years after Grant took charge of Chevrolet sales, 1924 to 1928, sales climbed to $4 billion with net income at $865 million. In the subsequent 16 year period, 1929 to 1944, when Grant was in charge of all GM's sales, sales totaled more than $26 billion with net income of $3,559 million.

Richard Grant was cited in *Fortune Magazine* as "Dynamic Dick" and "the Little Giant," a resonant speaker, and "one of the greatest salesmen this nation of salesmen has produced." He still employed several of the sales methods he had learned from pioneer, John H. Patterson at NCR. The annual convention, yearly quotas, direct-mail circulars, and salesmen's contests were all deeply rooted in Grant's sales repertoire. *Fortune* went on to state, "...he has been known to reduce dealers' conventions to tears of enthusiasm, and he is certainly the nearest thing to a professional orator in the G.M. high command." He would need all his talents to continue to carry GM sales during the Depression.

World's Fair Auto Plant Formally Opened



SOURCE: GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION, 1933

During the dedicatory luncheon of the special General Motors exposition building at "A Century of Progress", attended by 250 Chicago civic, social and industrial leaders, W. S. Knudsen, president and general manager of the Chevrolet Motor Co. released a harnessed cosmic ray setting in motion the assembly plant which Chevrolet will operate in the building for the duration of the Fair. In the lower panel Mr. Knudsen is shown pressing the starting button in the presence of Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., president of General Motors. In the upper panel interested observers of the first car down the line are, from the left: D. E. Ralston, assistant general sales manager of Chevrolet; H. J. Klingler, vice-president and general sales manager; Mr. Knudsen; C. E. Wetherald, vice-president and general manufacturing manager; E. L. Wright, Chicago plant manager; L. K. Cooper, Chicago regional manager; W. C. Williams, Jr., general assembly plant supervisor, and R. H. Grant, vice- president of General Motors.

Grant cited his greatest challenge of the Depression in a term he coined — "fusion." He went on to explain that GM was largely composed of "a bunch of independent businessmen, bought out by Durant. On their own they had been successful. They were worth, on the average perhaps $5 million. By 1929 they were still 'independent'."

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In an article for *Sales Management* magazine in 1953, Grant recalled the "fusion" process, "We had to replace bad principles with good, and to establish principles where none existed." He went on to credit Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. as "One of the few men in the country who could have welded them all into one institution. Mr. Sloan's leadership enforced standards and brought strength."

To reduce overhead during the Depression, Grant initiated B-O-P Sales Co. This consolidated sales organizations and procedures of the Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac (and later Cadillac and Chevrolet) Divisions under a singular umbrella of uniformity. Another innovation he introduced included "dualing" which allowed GM dealers in towns with less than 5,000 people to carry more than one of the five product lines GM produced. By decreasing duplication and increasing standardization Richard Grant streamlined America's largest corporation to maximize profitability.

Grant's continuing dedication during the daunting years of the Depression brought him to the forefront at GM as he was elected first to the administration committee and subsequently, in 1934, to the GM Board of Directors.

The Reynolds Connection

In post-Civil War Dayton, Lucius D. Reynolds, a former Bellefontaine, Ohio, newspaper publisher, opened a print shop with his brother-in-law, James Gardner, with $500 in capital investment. One year later, Ira Reynolds, Lucius' father, bought out Gardner's share and they began to specialize in printing forms for business.

In September 1889, under Lucius' guidance as president, the company incorporated as Reynolds and Reynolds (R&R) and achieved success based on quality and service. They worked in a small building behind the Turner Opera House which later became the Victory Theater and then the Victoria.

In February, 1913, Lucius died and his son, Edwin Stanton Reynolds, Sr., succeeded him as president. The company grew and opened locations throughout the United States and then moved into its current location on Washington Street in Dayton.

During the 1920s, the Grant and Reynolds families became great friends. It was a friendship destined to change the lives of both the families. By the end of the decade, Thirza had married E.S. Reynolds, Jr., and Richard Grant, Sr., had purchased the first of his Washington Township Land (Rock Creek Farm) from E.S. Reynolds' wife Florence. Although Thirza and E.S. Reynolds, Jr. were divorced prior to World War II, they produced a son, Edwin Stanton Reynolds, III and a daughter, Peggy, and the families remained friends for years.

Reynolds, in the late '20s, became one of the first printers in the U.S. to employ offset lithography printing which vastly improved the quality of their color printing. During the Depression, Reynolds and Reynolds was feeling the economic squeeze when Richard Grant suggested to E.S. Reynolds, Sr., (during a summer evening at the Reynolds' picnic cabin) that they send a representative to Detroit to standardize the forms necessary for the automotive industry and in particular the needs of automotive dealerships.

Edwin, Sr., was unable to pursue this business opportunity because of his untimely death in Florida in 1935, When his body was returned to Dayton, it was the Reynolds' cook, Daisy, who looked into the coffin to make sure it was Mr. Reynolds. Grant's friendship with the family coupled with his desire to continue the role of "gentleman farmer" led him to acquire the Reynolds' 25 acre dairy called "Forest Hill Diary Farm" behind the Reynolds mansion at 732 West Alex-Bell Road.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Left to right, Ira Reynolds, Lucius Reynolds, and Edwin Stanton Reynolds, Sr. the first three generations of founders and owners of Reynolds & Reynolds.

E.S. Reynolds, Jr., assumed the presidency of Reynolds & Reynolds upon the death of his father, but ill-health and the pressures of the financial depression found him unable to supply the necessary leadership. In 1937, L.H. Forster, became president and general manager of R&R. In this difficult time, Grant tried to help and advise Mrs. Reynolds. Finally, sensing a capability to secure a future for his family and friends, Grant bought controlling interest in Reynolds and Reynolds in 1938. (See the *Dayton Herald*, November 22, 1938, Appendix C.) The purchase was made from a family trust fund prior to the gift tax. Grant's wife, daughter, and son became the owners of Reynolds & Reynolds; Richard Grant, Sr., became chairman of the board. Along with the purchase of the company, Grant acquired the remainder of the Reynolds' farm land holdings, including the Reynolds mansion at 732 West Alex-Bell Road. Four years later he bought the remainder of the company.

Mrs. Reynolds moved to a new home in Oakwood, and she and her son Stoddard joined the R&R board of directors.

In 1935, the same year E.S. Reynolds, Sr. passed away,



SOURCE: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION, PHOTO: MARY LOU HUFFMAN

The "Milkhouse" also known as the Reynolds House. The Huffman family lived here in the 1950s.

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Richard Grant, Jr., married Helen Slack King. Helen was the sister of Richard Jr.'s childhood friend, Bob King. Helen's father, Robert King, Sr., was a major player in the petroleum industry, and they had been the Grants' neighbors in Oakwood. Their family also bought approximately 66 acres directly east of Normandy Lane adjacent to the new Grant property. (See map from 1931 on page 37.)

Following their honeymoon in the Bahamas and Florida, the young Grant couple moved into the gatehouse at Normandy. For the next few years, Richard, Jr., went to work for Frigidaire in sales and was transferred to complete training and do sales in New York City. Upon the birth of their daughter, Gail, in 1937, the family decided to return to Dayton. Richard Grant, III, was born in 1939. In 1941, after a brief training period, R.H. Grant, Jr., assumed duties as President and General Manager of Reynolds & Reynolds. The couple also moved into the former Reynolds' mansion on Alex-Bell Road and renamed it "Skywood."



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Reynolds & Reynolds in the forefront and Downtown Dayton on the opposite side of the river, 1937.



PHOTO: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Reynolds & Reynolds delivery truck in the early 20th century.

The Grants replaced all equipment, added new plant facilities, and increased R&R's sales from $2.5 million, in 1937, to $8 million by 1953. As of 2001, R&R quarterly revenues topped $400 million with net income in excess of $30 million per quarter.

Upon the death of Richard Grant, Sr., in 1957, Richard Jr. assumed the post of Chairman of the Board of Directors of Reynolds & Reynolds. Frank Pfeiffer, long-time friend, Executive Vice President, and General Manager became President. In 1961, Richard Grant, Jr., took the Reynolds & Reynolds Company public to lessen the family tax liability. The Grants' lifelong friendship with the Watson family of IBM led them to boldly approach the computerization of the business forms and in particular automotive dealership information systems.

A more detailed account is available in Richard Grant, Jr.'s, book, *Freewheeling: 80 Years of Observations by the Patriarch of Reynolds and Reynolds.*

Richard Grant, Jr., passed away June 5, 2001, and was buried in Centerville Cemetery in the family plot which adjoins the Reynolds family burial plot.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Reynolds and Grant gravesites

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Growing up Granted

Richard H. Grant, Jr., said regarding his father: "I knew at an early age that I was being groomed as an extension of his world. Yet, my personal lifestyle didn't indicate that. I wasn't interested in school because I couldn't see where it would ever parlay into good business sense. MBAs weren't the way you got a job back then. It was who you knew, and I knew plenty of people."

"The name 'Grant' certainly had its advantages, but I quickly learned about the drawbacks as well. I pondered how I'd ever live up to my father's expectations or those of others who presumed one Grant was equal to the other. I assumed my future would begin down some bumpy road and I'd land in a gigantic pothole."

"It was in 1935 when I felt the time had come to quit worrying about filling my father's footsteps and began groping my way outside the dimensions of his shadow."



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

In 1924, R.H. Grant, Sr., took Richard Jr, aged 11, on a three-month cross country tour to every major town to the west coast.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Thirza, Brud (Richard Jr.), Laura and Eddie Reynolds Jr., at Venice Lido. Thirza and Eddie were soon to be wed.



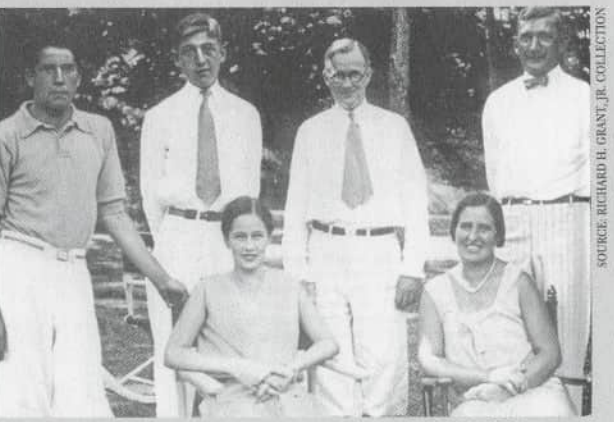
SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Laura and Richard Grant, Jr., cruising the Caribbean, circa 1926.



SOURCE: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Jersey Classification Day at Normandy Farms, Richard Grant, Jr., 2nd from left, Richard Grant Sr., 4th from left, circa 1943.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

The Knudsens and Grants on vacation, circa 1932. Thirza and Mrs. Grant (Laura), are seated. Standing (left to right) are Richard Jr., Bunky Knudsen, Richard Grant, Sr., and William Knudsen.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Richard Grant, Jr., and Helen Slack King announce their engagement at Normandy Farms in 1935.

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The War Years

By the outbreak of World War II, December, 1941, General Motors was the largest corporation in the world. William Knudsen, GM's president and Grant's old friend from Chevrolet, left for Washington, was commissioned as a Lieutenant (three-star) General, and appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt as Director of U.S. Production. This meant that Knudsen was given the task of coordinating all of America's industrial capabilities toward the effort necessary for wartime production and the defeat of the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan).

In 1942, Richard and Laura Grant went to Washington as well. They moved into an apartment on 16th Street. While Laura worked under the direction of Perle Mesta at the Stage Door Canteen, Richard served as the liaison from GM to the federal government. He spearheaded GM's conversion from peacetime to 100 percent war production. GM delivered more than $12 billion worth of war material to support the Allied War effort. The company manufactured trucks and "Ducks" (amphibious vehicles) along with airplanes, engines, marine and diesel products, guns, shells, tanks and a myriad of miscellaneous items necessary for the troops.

The Grant's daughter Thirza and her children, Peggy and Eddie Reynolds, by her first husband Edwin Stanton Reynolds, Jr., lived at Normandy Farms during World War II. Her second husband, Randolph Holladay, was then in the military. Later she married William H. Joyce and moved to the West Coast.

Carl Schell, who lived on Normandy Lane and taught at Sinclair Community College, was hired by Grant to tutor his grandson Eddie, so he could enroll in a private school. Peggy and Eddie, together with housekeeper Winnie Watkins and her husband Jack Watkins, the butler, often went on vacations with the Grants to their home in California. Watkins was very devoted to the Grant family and was more than just a butler. He was responsible for staging many parties at Normandy Farms. Winnie and Jack had come from Britain to work for the family. Jack eventually left, but Winnie stayed on for many years.



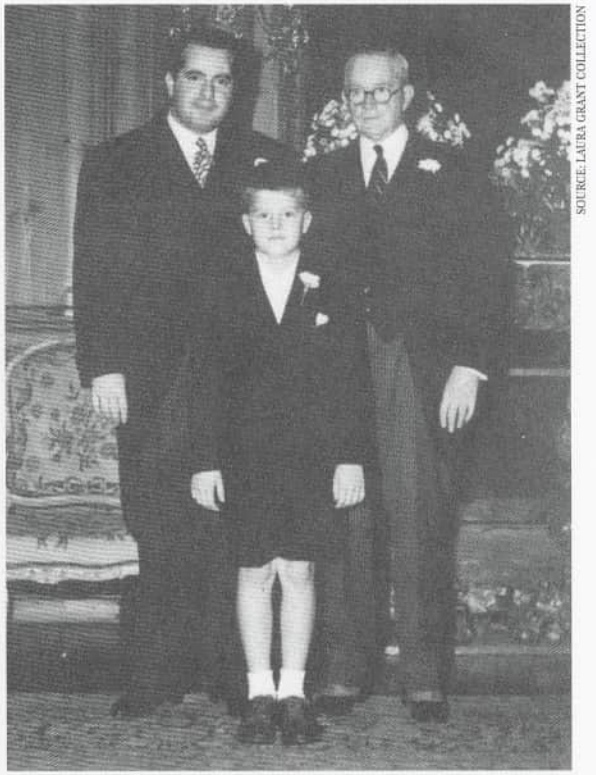
SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Lt. Gen. William S. Knudsen, during WW II, director-general, Office of Production Management (OPM) and member of the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Richard Grant, Sr., was the GM production liaison to the government in Washington D.C.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Three generations of Grants dressed for a reception in the Pine Room (living room) of Normandy Farms during World War II. Left, Richard Grant, Jr., right, Richard Hallam Grant, and front, Richard H. Grant, III. Richard, Sr. was rarely able to travel to Dayton during the war because of the demands of serving as liaison for GM war production. He and Laura lived in an apartment on 16th Street in Washington D.C.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Thirza's second husband, Captain A. Randolph Holladay, circa 1945.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Daughter Thirza and her children lived at Normandy Farms while her husband was in the service.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Helen King Grant, Red Cross volunteer, Richard, Jr.'s, wife, circa 1945



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Richard Grant, Jr., had become president of Reynolds & Reynolds



SOURCE: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION, PHOTO: DAYTON JOURNAL HERALD

Reynolds & Reynolds (shown in a 1928 photo) had printed forms and business contracts prior to World War II produced ration books and military and technical instruction manuals for Wright-Patterson during WW II.

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SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Richard & Laura Grant circa 1955



SOURCE: DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Dayton's prominent women at New Year's Eve party in the late 1940s in the living room. From left to right: Elsie Talbott Mead, Louise McIntire, Ethel Rike, Anne Platt, Lil Talbott Church, Lucy Carr Reed, Rachael Drury, Laura Grant, Henrietta Patterson and Katharine Dart.

RETIREMENT

Worn out from incessant traveling and speechmaking throughout the country for so many years, Richard Grant retired in 1944 at the age of 65. In 1944, during his retirement, Grant chaired the Community Chest Campaign in Dayton and for three years he chaired the Dayton Philharmonic Association finance committee. He returned to his life as "gentleman farmer" and as chairman of the board, revitalizing Reynolds & Reynolds which had produced ration books during the war. R&R was producing business forms, stationery, checks and promotional literature, but the bulk of the business catered to the automotive trade with about 15 percent of the total business coming from GM and its dealers. In the early 1950s, after suffering a stroke, Grant began to cut back on his farm activities and in the summer of 1953, at age 74, retired from the Board of Directors of General Motors. He remained Chairman of the Board of Directors for Reynolds & Reynolds until his death.

When asked the greatest satisfaction of his career, he said "The men I developed. The automotive field is full of my former associates."

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Despite the installation of a small elevator in the mansion, Richard's and Laura's declining health led them to leave the multi-levels and many rooms of Normandy. They moved to a large apartment at 740 Park Avenue, New York, to be closer to friends and some of their grandchildren and often visited Richard, Jr., at *Miradero,* his Delray Beach, Florida home. In 1955, the Grants began to sell off portions of their estate and farm which they had enjoyed for 27 years.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

This rare winter picture shot from the second floor east wing toward the west wing shows the kitchen windows left, then servants quarters center, and a wall that hid the upper portion of a three-car garage. These areas were altered with the addition of the new sanctuaries.

Richard H. Grant, Sr., died of a heart attack Tuesday, September 24, 1957, at Roosevelt Hospital in New York City. and was buried in the Centerville Cemetery. His funeral was held at 2 p.m., September 27, at Normandy EUB Church, his former home and was presided over by Rev. Milford E. Ater and Dr. Phil Porter. Among the several hundred attendees were Secretary of Defense Charles F. Wilson, former GM President and Chairman of the Board, Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., and noted inventor and GM executive, Charles F. Kettering.

Grant's wife, Laura, followed him in death on December 23, 1970, and was buried alongside him in Centerville Cemetery.

* * *



SOURCE: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The Grant's gravesite, Centerville cemetery.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Richard and Laura Grant, circa 1955

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Scenes from a Grant Family album



PHOTO BY MARION STUDIOS OF LOWELL, MASS.; SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Annie Hallam Grant, Richard Grant's mother, circa 1870.



PHOTO BY C.M. ZIMMERMAN STUDIOS, DAYTON, OHIO; SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Four generations. Baby Thirza Elinor Grant with mother (right) Laura Elinor Williams Grant, with her father (top) John Hopkins Williams, and his mother (left) Sarah Watkins Williams. circa 1911.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

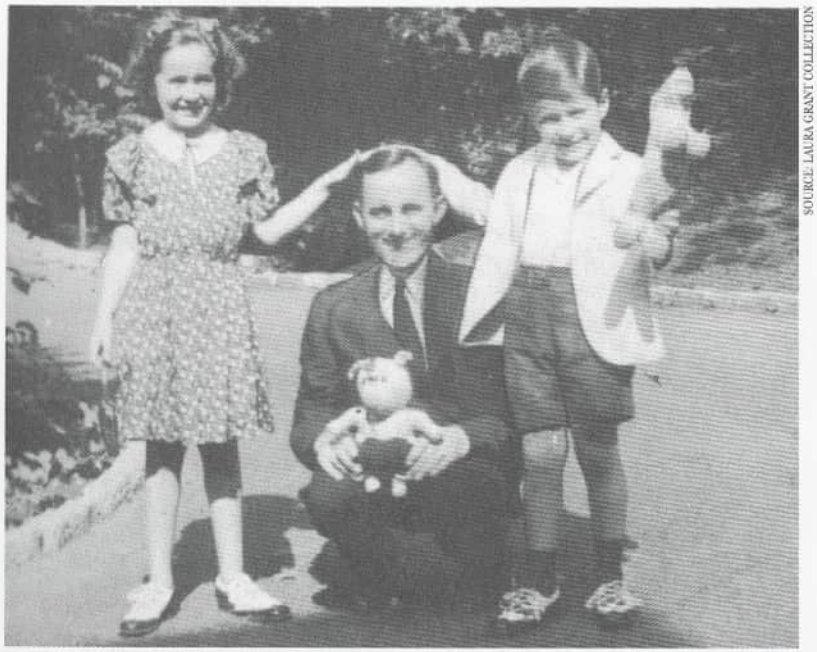
George Franklin Grant, Richard Grant's father, circa 1910.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Thirza Grant, circa 1910.

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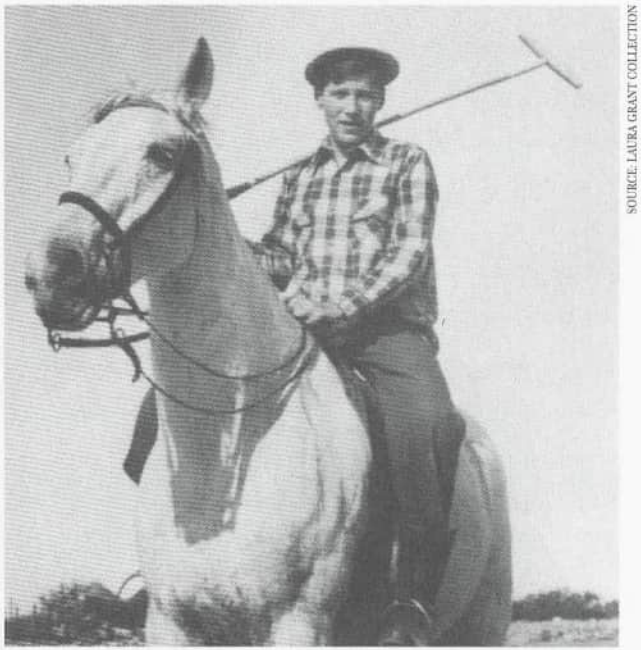
SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Watkins with Thirza's children, Peggy and Eddie Reynolds, III.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Edwin S. Reynolds, III



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Edwin S. Reynolds, III



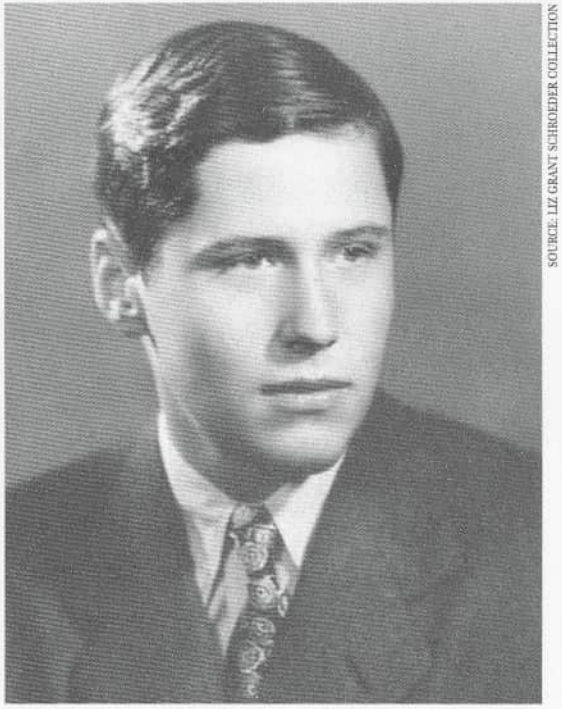
SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Eddie, III, and Peggy's mother, Thirza, at Venice Lido



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Peggy Reynolds



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Edwin S. Reynolds, III

Edwin (Eddie) S. Reynolds, III went on to achieve his law degree from the University of Miami, (Florida), School of Law in 1957.

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SOURCE: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Rike's Department Store promotional aerial view of downtown Centerville, circa 1929 (about the time the Grants moved to the area), looking toward the east. (Fred & Ethel Rike were close friends and traveling companions of the Grants.)

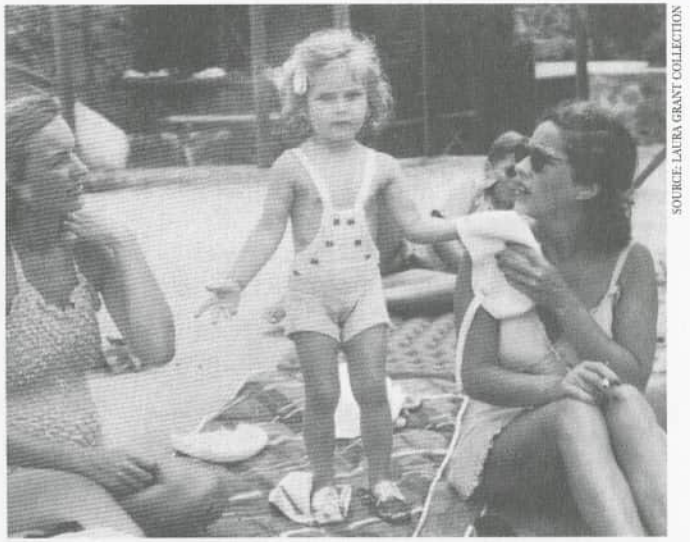
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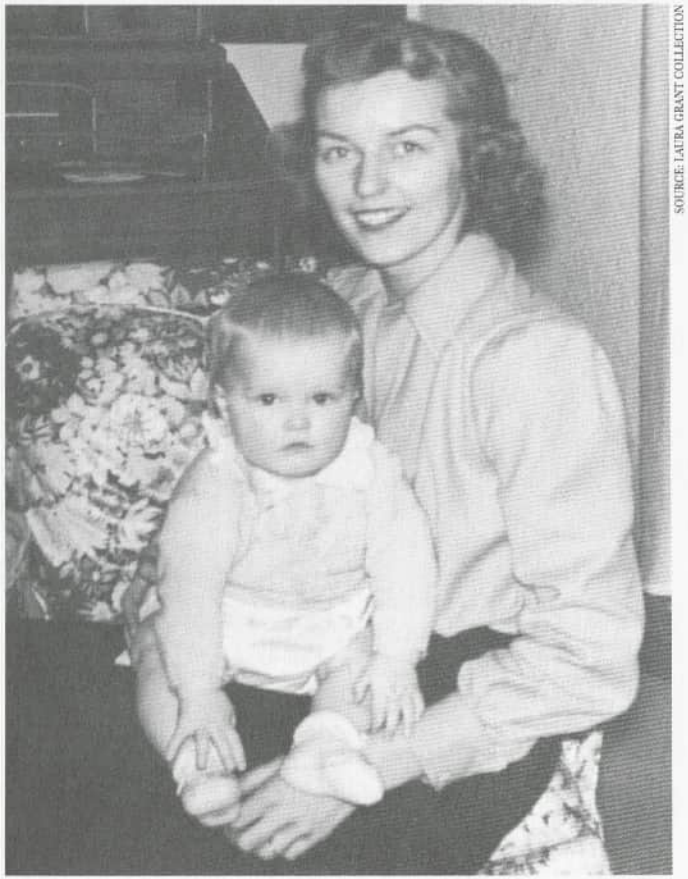
SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

The christening of Gail King Grant. Helen King Grant and Richard Jr., with Helen and Bob King and Richard & Laura Grant, circa 1937.

Helen King Grant with daughter, Gail and sister-in-law, Thirza, circa 1942.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Helen Grant with son Ricky (Richard H. Grant, III) at Skywood Farms the former Reynolds Estate, circa 1940.

Richard, III, and Gail Grant (Richard, Jr. and Helen's children) at Normandy Farm's barnyard, circa 1945.



SOURCE: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

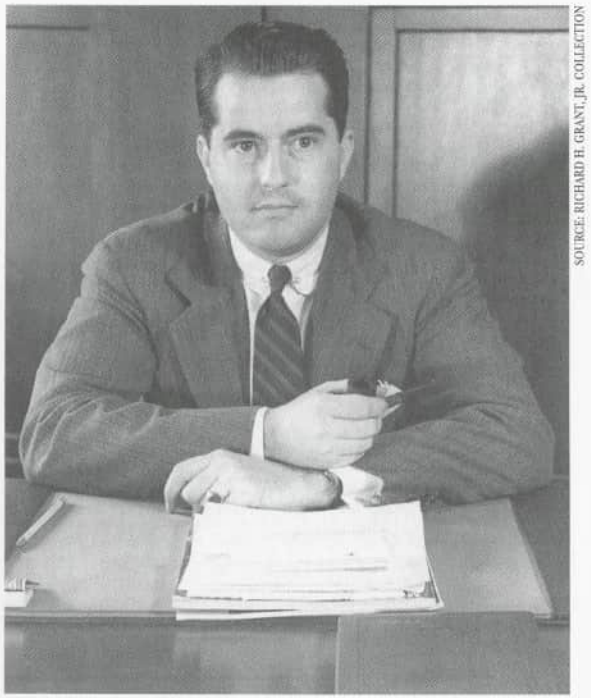
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SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

In window, Richard H. Grant, III; seated back row Laura and Richard Grant, Helen King Grant and Richard Jr., Thirza; seated front row Peggy (Thirza's daughter with her son, Nicky,) and Richard, Jr.'s daughter Gail, circa 1949.

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SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Richard H. Grant, Jr., circa 1941, when he assumed the presidency of Reynolds & Reynolds Company.

Frank Pfeiffer became president and general manager of Reynolds & Reynolds as Richard H. Grant, Jr., became CEO and board chairman upon the death of RHG, Sr., in 1957. This picture was taken 1967.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Richard Grant, Jr.'s ascension to Board Chairman of R&R allowed him the time to pursue his first love, boating. He had inherited this love from his grandfather, George Franklin Grant, a sea captain from Massachusetts. This 1963 photo shows the board of directors of the Key Largo Anglers Club. From left to right: Ray McDermott, president of an off-shore drilling company; Richard Grant, Jr.; Jim Carmine, president of Whirlpool; Bruce Forbes, **Forbes** *magazine; Jack Kimberly, president of Kimberly-Clark; Herbert Hoover, 31st president of the United States, Mundy Peale, president of Republic Aviation; and Jim Knight, founder Knight-Ridder, publisher of* **Miami Herald**.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Upon the destruction of the old Gem City Savings Building at Third & Main Streets (formerly the Callahan Building), Reynolds & Reynolds rescued the 1919 clock and mounted it upon their newly remodeled headquarters.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

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Richard and Laura Grant. Laura is wearing the veil from her original wedding dress.



Thirza Grant Holladay with her mother Laura Grant and daughter Peggy Reynolds Carpenter.



Laura Grant with in-laws Helen and Bob King and daughter-in-law Helen King Grant and friend Dorothy Perry who was in charge of the guest book.

SOURCE FOR ALL PHOTOS: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Richard and Laura Grant's 50th Anniversary Party

at the Union Club in New York City, New York, September 6, 1956, with 240 guests.

All photos by Bradford Bachrach of New York

Dick Grant with daughter Thirza, wife Laura, and son, Brudie (Rick, Jr.)



Bob and Helen King with daughter Helen King Grant and in-laws, Laura and Richard Grant.



Dorothy Patterson Jackson with Richard Grant, Sr., and Richard Grant, Jr.



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Dick and Laura Grant cut the cake.



(Left to right) Peggy Reynolds Carpenter, A. Randolph Holladay with his wife, Thirza, Richard and Laura Grant, Richard, Jr., Helen King Grant and Eddie Carpenter.



Thirza with Laura Grant and Richard, Jr.

SOURCE FOR ALL PHOTOS: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

(Left to right) Howell Jackson, Elsie Mead, Richard H. Grant, Laura Grant, George Mead, Dorothy Patterson Jackson, and Max Don Howell.



(Center) Laura Grant chats with world famous automotive designer Harley Earle.



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SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Richard, Jr., with wife Helen King Grant and daughter Gail King Grant.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

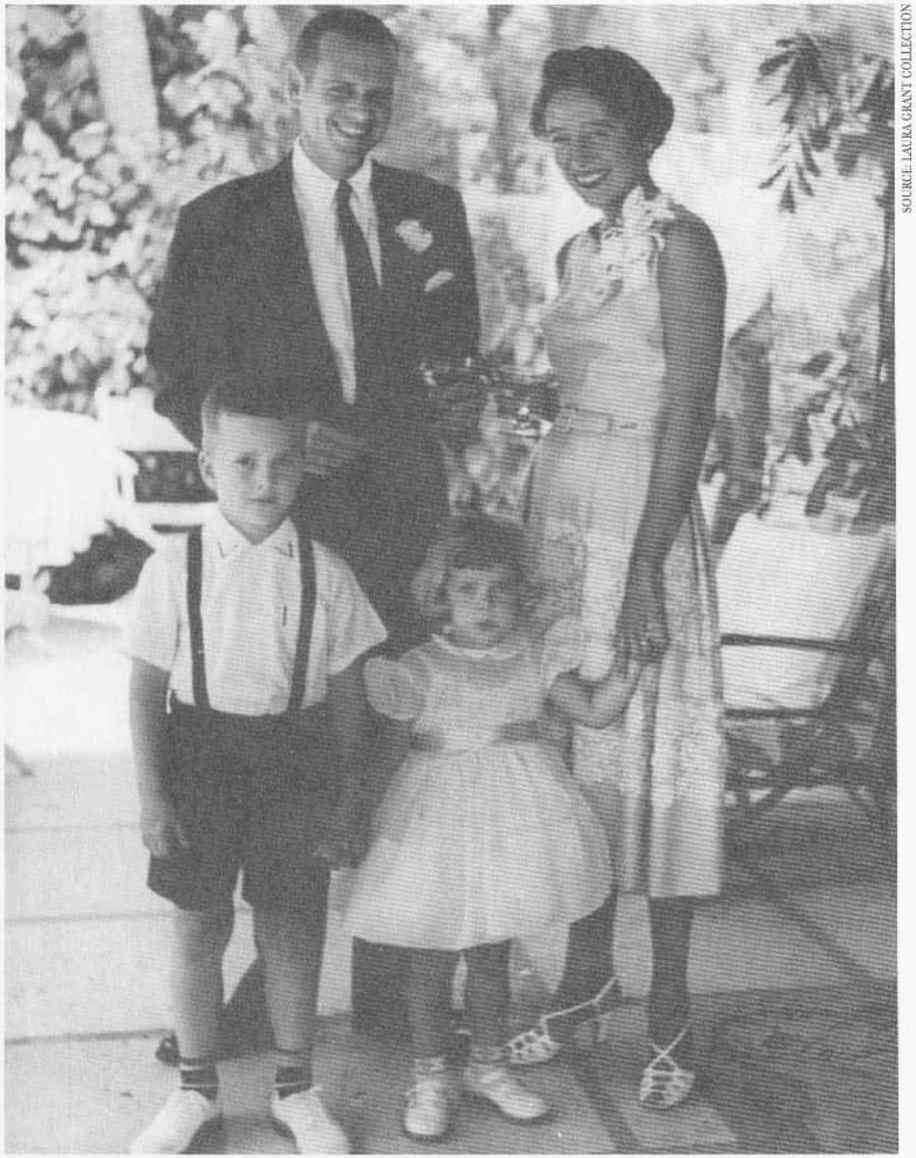
Richard Grant, Jr., with daughter Gail Grant Slingluff, her husband Charles Slingluff and their children, Jennifer, Melissa and Charles III in the 1970s.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

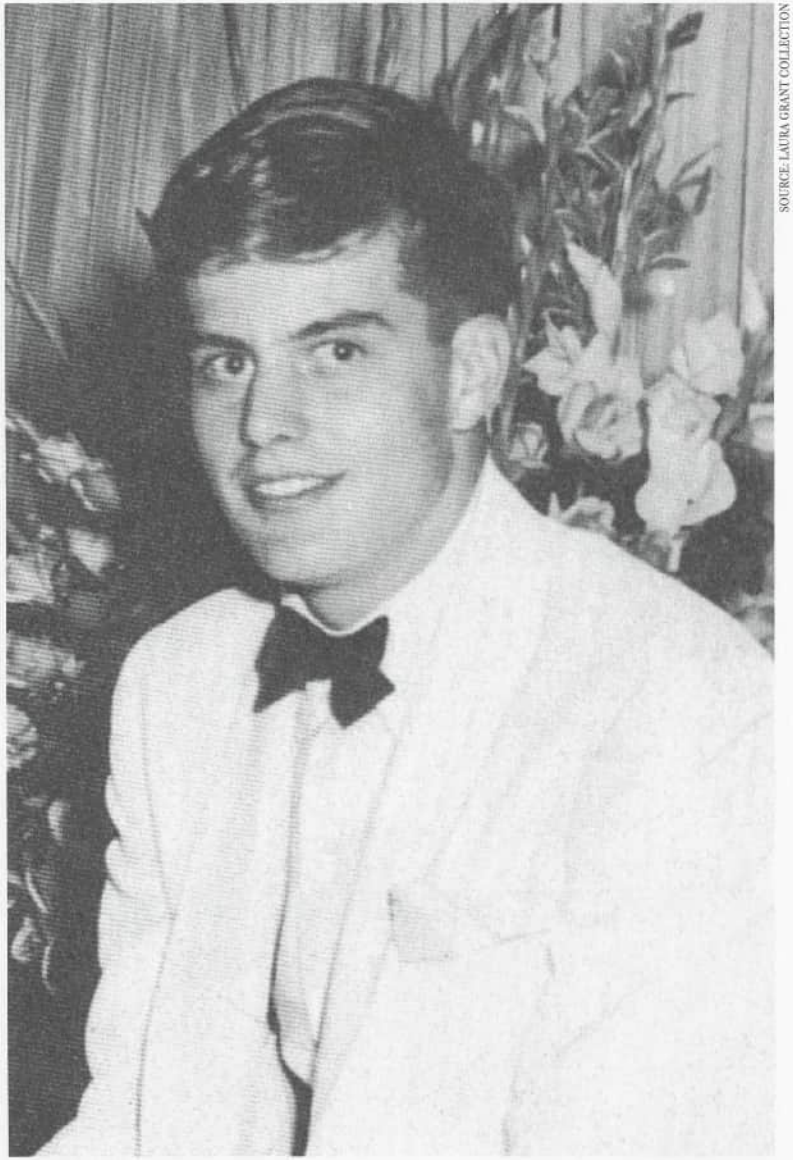
(Left to right) Pat Robinson, wife Jennifer (Slingluff) Robinson, Charles Slingluff, Charlie Slingluff, Gail (Grant) Slingluff, Chris Morley, Melissa (Slingluff) Morley in the 1990s.

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SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

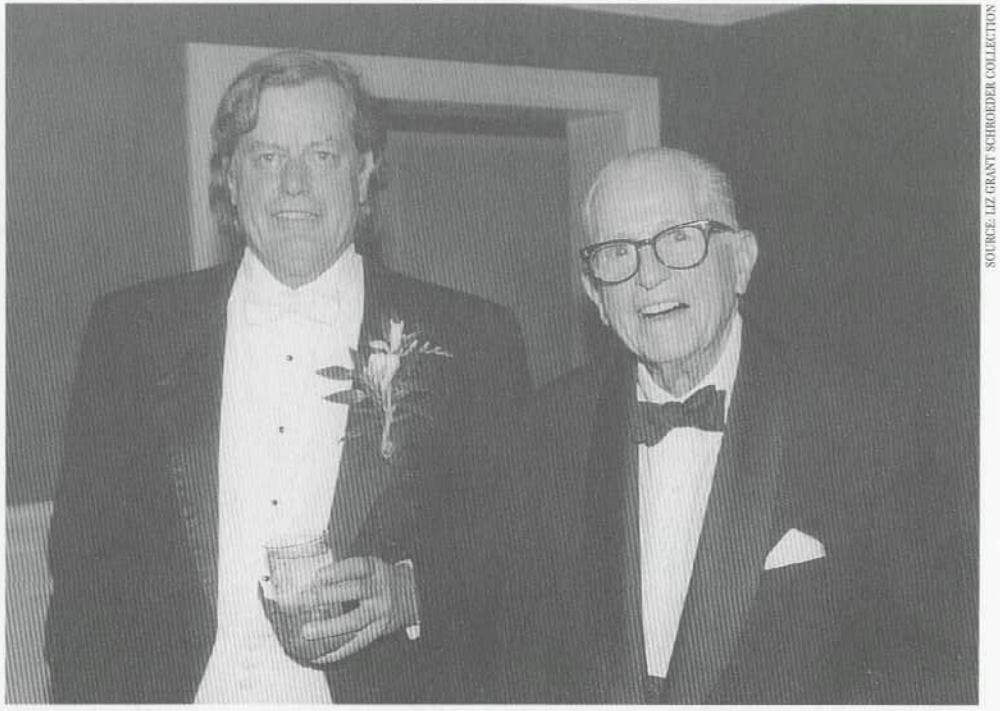
Thirza's daughter Peggy with her husband Eddie Carpenter and their children Nicky and Laura, in the mid-1950s.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Richard Hallam Grant, III, June, 1955.

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SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Richard H. Grant, III and Richard H. Grant, Jr., circa 1991.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Richard Grant, Jr., with son, Richard Grant, III, Rick's wife, Mimi and daughter, Liz in the 1970s.

(Right) Richard Grant, Jr., with son, Richard Grant, III, and daughter-in-law, Mimi, circa 1972.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

(Below, left to right) Gail Grant Slingluff, Richard H. Grant III, Helen King Grant, Richard H. Grant, Jr., circa 1986.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

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SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Liz and Charlie Schroeder on their wedding day, August 17, 1991.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Liz Grant Schroeder with her grandfather Richard H. Grant, Jr.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Richard Grant, Jr., with wife Helen King Grant in the 1990s.



SOURCE: RICHARD H. GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Richard Grant, Jr., with three granddaughters, Liz (RHG III's, daughter); Melissa and Jennifer (Gail's daughter) on Melissa's wedding day.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

(Left to right)) Jennifer Slingluff Robinson, Melissa Slingluff Morley and Elizabeth Grant Schroeder with their grandmother, Helen King Grant, circa 1990.

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SEE ADDITIONAL
COLOR PHOTOS IN THE
COLOR CENTER SECTION.

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Normandy Farms

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest and cold and heat and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

— Genesis: 8:22

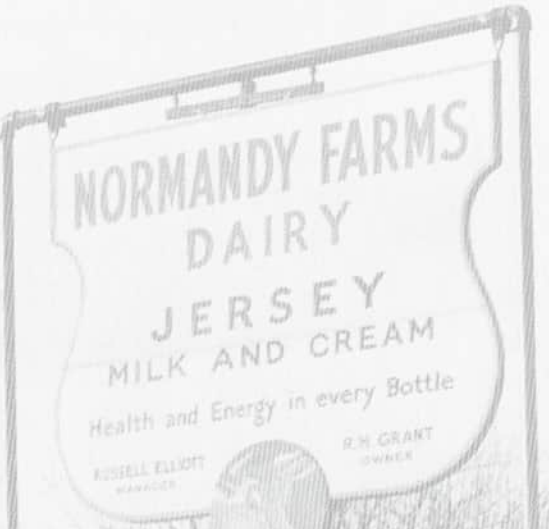


PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION



PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

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Normandy Farms: A Working Estate

Farmers for centuries have lived with the vagaries of the seasons, working from dawn to dark to plant, till and harvest their crops.

Normandy Farms, a model operation, stands as no exception in the ordering of the seasons, where for 34 years Russell and Laura Elliott managed nearly 800 acres for owner Richard H. Grant in Washington Township, Montgomery County, Ohio.

Why Normandy?

The Grants, who had visited Normandy, France, before World War II, fell in love with its orchards and terrain and remembered its beauty when they acquired vast acreage of rolling hills and woodland for their palatial home and various amenities in southwestern Ohio in the 1920s. They named their estate Normandy Farms for the picturesque French province.

Laura Grant in her memoir *Fifty Golden Years* wrote: "On the farms we bought were several apple orchards and we had just returned from a trip through Normandy, when the apple blossoms were in full bloom we decided to call our farms 'Normandy Farms'." (See detailed 1928 Farm Map in the color insets on page 106.)



Normandy, the word itself, brings to mind ancient struggles between this powerful French province and Great Britain, battles that ended in victory for William the Conqueror against King Harold of England in the Battle of Hastings in 1066, known as the Norman Conquest.

In modern history, some 900 years later, Allied troops in World War II on D-Day reversed the invasion in one of the largest attacks ever staged, when 150,000 soldiers, 1,500 tanks, and 5,300 boats stormed Normandy's beaches. This seminal event of the 20th century marked the beginning of the end of World War 11 and the defeat of Fascism. Landings on five beaches along a 60-mile front on the Normandy coast on June 6, 1944, led to the ultimate liberation of Western Europe from the Axis Powers.

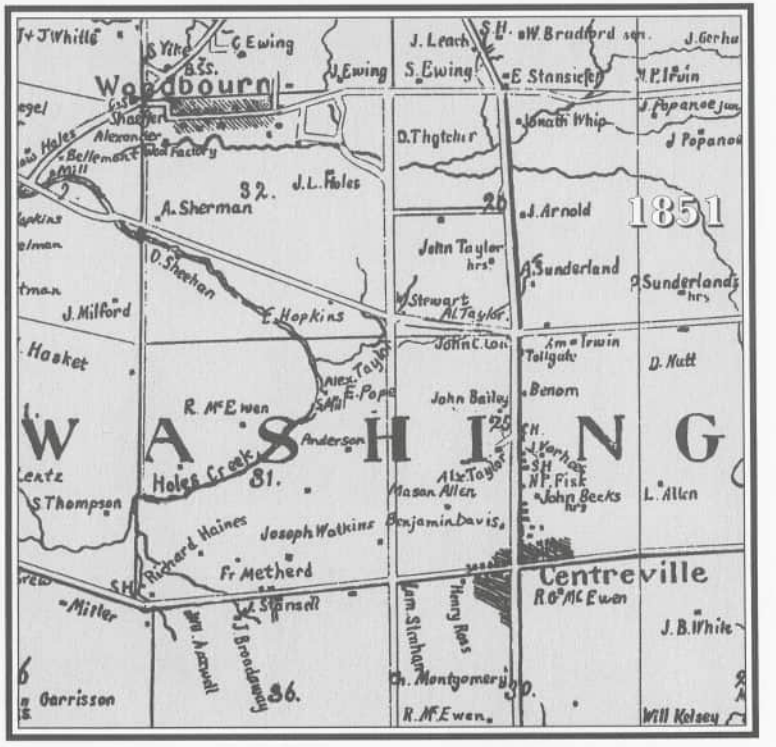
Grant's Land Holdings

Grant land lay south of Woodbourne, southwest along Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road from slightly west of Route 48; about a mile north of Route 725 on the west side of Normandy Lane (formerly Bookwalter Road); the north side of A-B Road from Normandy lane to near Durban Road (formerly the Griest farm); and two farms, 100.7 acres and 109 acres from Florence Reynolds in 1938, along the south side of A-B Road to McEwen Road. Grant continued to buy various tracts, parcels, easements and acreage for a decade until Normandy farms comprised nearly 800 acres.

Included in the Grant holdings were about 100 acres, used for crops and pasture and owned by the King family, lying on the east side of Normandy Lane from A-B Road to near the entrance to the farm complex.

In his book *Freewheeling,* the late R. H. Grant, Jr., recalls: "Father began by buying the base farm and then acquiring more land from surrounding farmers over time. After about nine or ten purchases from various small farmers, we ended up with nearly one square mile of land.

"There was one neighbor, though, who had stopped farming earlier…had a plot that father wanted, but wouldn't sell it to him. Yet, father was the kind of man who would persist…so he kept going back to this man until he finally wore him down. He never told me what he had to pay, but I'm sure it was a very hefty price."



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Like today's "dot.com" millionaires, who build mansions with new wealth, businessmen and industrial barons of the 1920s boom times invested in land and spacious homes in this community. Lured by the landscape, families came to Washington Township with money and a desire to live in a grand style, which may have set the tone for today's prime residential area.

Sociologist Thornstein Veblen who coined the term, "conspicuous consumption" points out in his book *The Theory of the Leisure Class* that "it is not enough for the wealthy to hold power, but they feel compelled to put it on display." Veblen noted that the wealthy spend even more for display than for pleasure. After the Great Depression devastated the country economically, these newcomers scaled down but were still able to live comfortably.

The impact of the Grants and Normandy Farms more than 70 years after its establishment remains visible in the community in facilities and institutions, namely: Normandy United Methodist Church, Normandy Elementary School, Grant Park and Grant Nature Center.

Farm Life

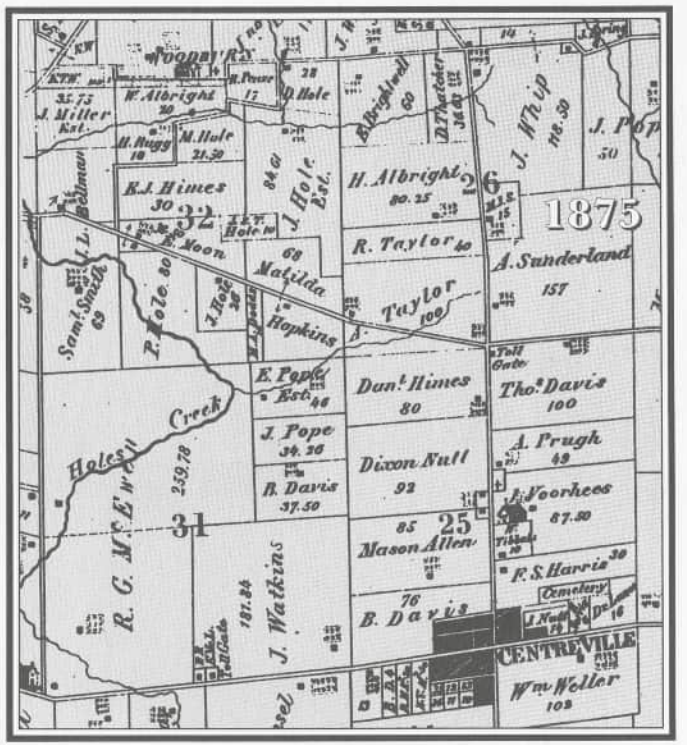
Dan McQueen was the first manager of Normandy Farms, living in the manager's residence from 1927-30 with his wife and nine children. The house with three floors was built to accommodate a large family.

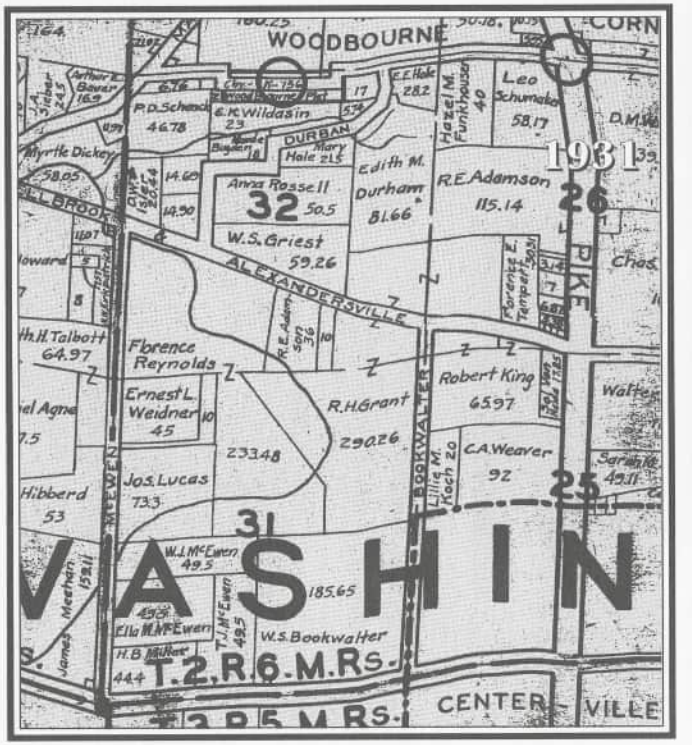
Martha McQueen Pollard, 80, of Franklin, fondly recalls her experience living at Normandy Farms: "I was six years old then and I remember Mr. Grant as a kind and generous man. At Christmas he would give my mother $50.00 to buy us presents. Also he had a pony and a cart, which he let us drive around the barnyard."

"My father had a stroke and we had to leave the farm. Later on we moved down on Route 741 to a farm where we raised tobacco."

Early in 1930, Richard H. Grant interviewed Russell Elliott for the position of farm manager as the country was reeling from the stock market crash in the fall of 1929.

Elliott, a sixth generation descendant of early settlers in the township, was brought up in an agricultural tradition, a way of life for several generations of his family. As a young man, he farmed on shares, first in western Greene county and then in the southern section of Washington Township. Possibly he inherited management skills from his father, Webster Elliott, who had served thirty years as superintendent of Montgomery County Fairgrounds.





Early Landowners in the Area:

1851 Map: R. G. McEwen, prominent farmer, businessman and politician, in Section 31; also Richard Haines, Joseph Watkins and Fr. Metherd.

1857 Map: R. G. McEwen held 442 acres and Joseph Watkins, 185 acres, largest owners.

1875 Map: R. G. McEwen, 259.78 acres, Joseph Watkins, 181.85 acres; E. Pope, 44 acres, I. Pope, 34.26 and B. Davis, 37.50.

A 1931 map shows R. H. Grant held 290.26 acres.

Montgomery County records show on the 1927 tax duplicate Grant's acquisition of land: 66 acres from Thomas P. Whitman; 20.77 acres, E. F. LeFevre; 35.5 acres; another LeFevre tract of 20.77 acres; also additional 15 acres from LeFevre; 35.5 from Thomas Davis Jr.; then in 1938, 103.7 acres were acquired from Florence Reynolds and 100 acres from the Clark French farm from Mrs. Reynolds' acreage transferred from Grant to Normandy Farms, Inc.

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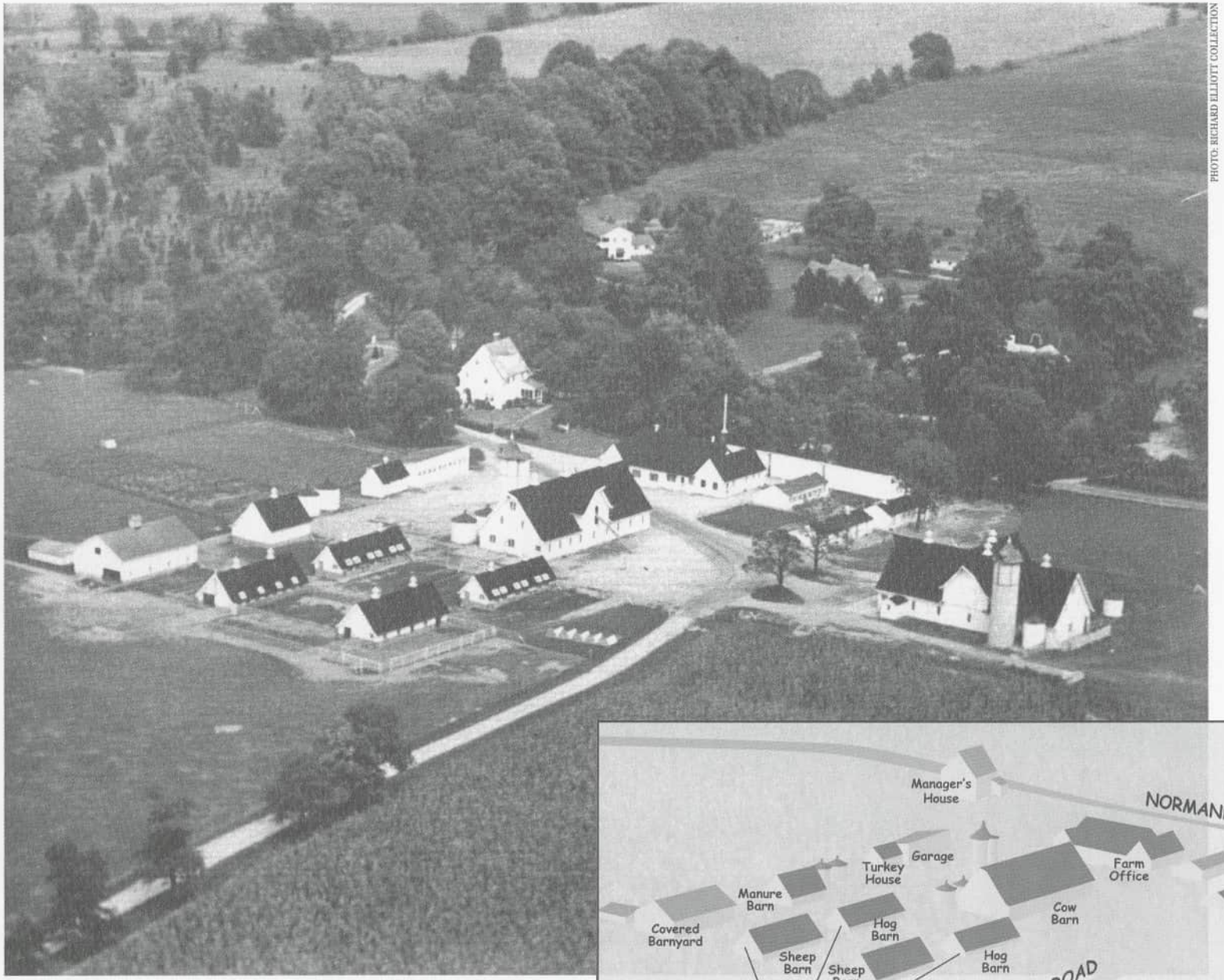


PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

The Normandy Farm complex in the mid-1940s as seen from an aerial photograph from the southwest looking northeast aiming toward the corner of Alex-Bell and Far Hills. As immaculate as it was from the air, it was from the ground. No stray outcropping of grass or weeds was ever allowed to propagate in the farmyard.

Early in the 19th century, the Elliott family had settled on a section (640 acres) of land bounded by Conference Road to Ferry on the south and a line just east of the Greene County line and on the north by Wilmington to Centerville-Station road, today part of Sugarcreek Metro Park.

During the initial interview, Grant asked Russell Elliott, "How many 'cahs' do you have?"

Unfamiliar with Grant's Yankee accent, Elliott replied, "Fifty."

"You surely don't own fifty cahs?"

"Oh," said Elliott, realizing that he had misunderstood, "I thought you meant cows, not cars."

Both related the story in later years during their long association and often laughed over their miscommunication.

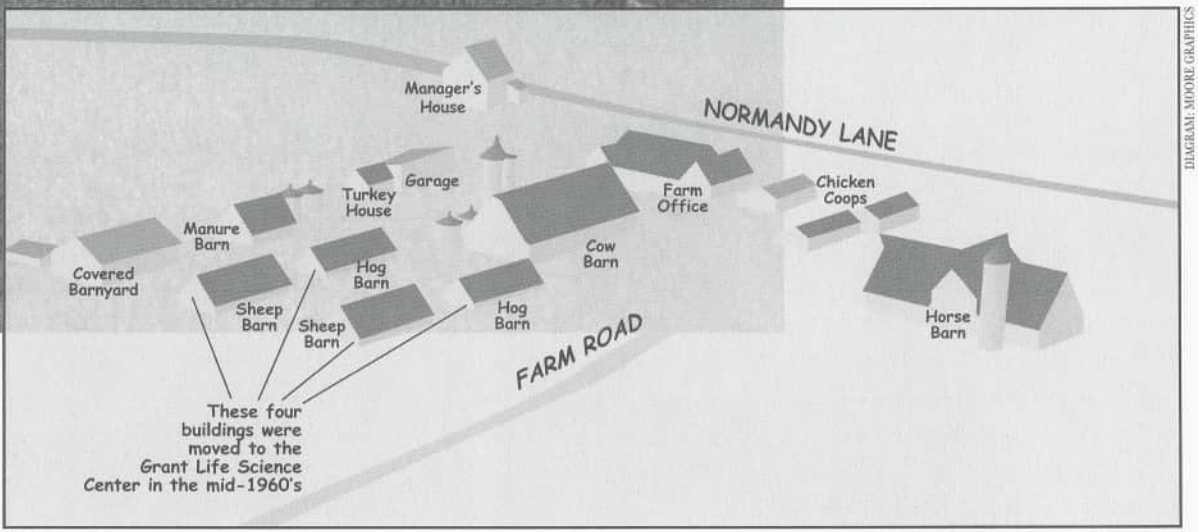


DIAGRAM: MOORE GRAPHICS

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PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Russell Elliott departing from Farm Manager's house. The Elliott's youngest son, Richard was born here. He was named after Richard Grant and was the last child Dr. Dudley Keever, local doctor, delivered prior to his retirement.

Grant offered Elliott a salary of $25 per week as farm manager, plus an attractive three-story home on Normandy Lane, meat, milk, eggs, poultry and vegetables from the farm and other fringe benefits. Elliott, a hard-scrabble farmer who, like other farmers had experienced a drop in prices of farm commodities and livestock after the crash of 1929, readily accepted the position. He moved to Normandy Farms in February, 1930 with his wife and son, Nevin, 10. By May, 1930, a second son, Richard, named for Mr. Grant, was born in the manager's house on Normandy Lane.

The couple would oversee a complex of buildings which included two large barns, one for horses and one for cows; two hog houses; two sheep houses; a covered barnyard; a manure shed; a milk processing plant; three chicken houses; two large silos; two implement sheds; a turkey house; a garage; four corn cribs and a smoke house, and ultimately nearly 800 acres of tillable land, pasture and woodland.



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Belgian work horses "In Step"

Also the Elliotts would supervise several farm workers, living in four tenant houses, as they raised dairy cattle, hogs, sheep and chickens. In the beginning, teams of Belgian horses were used for farm work, but were replaced with the latest farm machinery. Yearly crops yielded 40 acres of wheat, 125 acres of corn, 60 acres of oats, 135 acres of alfalfa and clover hay with the remaining acreage providing other crops and pasture. Stabled at the farm were several riding horses and a team of mules. The Grants often rode about the farm with their family and friends.

Normandy may be remembered in the community for its dairy business, begun in the mid-1930s, with a herd of 82 milking cows. Two men milked by hand, morning and evening. As business flourished, automatic milking machines were added and eight cows were milked at a time. There were eight stalls and machines were placed between cows, taking 10 minutes per cow to milk. The cows were fed alfalfa and clover hay and silage of corn, soybeans and molasses. (See Dairy Plant process on the following two pages.)

A modern plant pasteurized and bottled milk, which was non-homogenized and known for its high butterfat. Former customers recall pouring pure cream off the top of a quart of milk which averaged 4.5 to 5.3 percent butterfat, and sold for 15-18 cents per quart. An average of 1,200-1,500 pounds of milk was produced daily by the registered Jersey herd.

In a 1943 article in *The Jersey Bulletin*, a trade journal, the owner described the dairy operation: "The herd consisted of 82 milk cows, 25 bred heifers, 20 yearlings and 5 bulls. Housed in two dairy barns, the cows were kept inside from Oct. 15 to May 15, each season. In the summer they were turned out on blue grass pasture and brought up each morning and evening for milking.

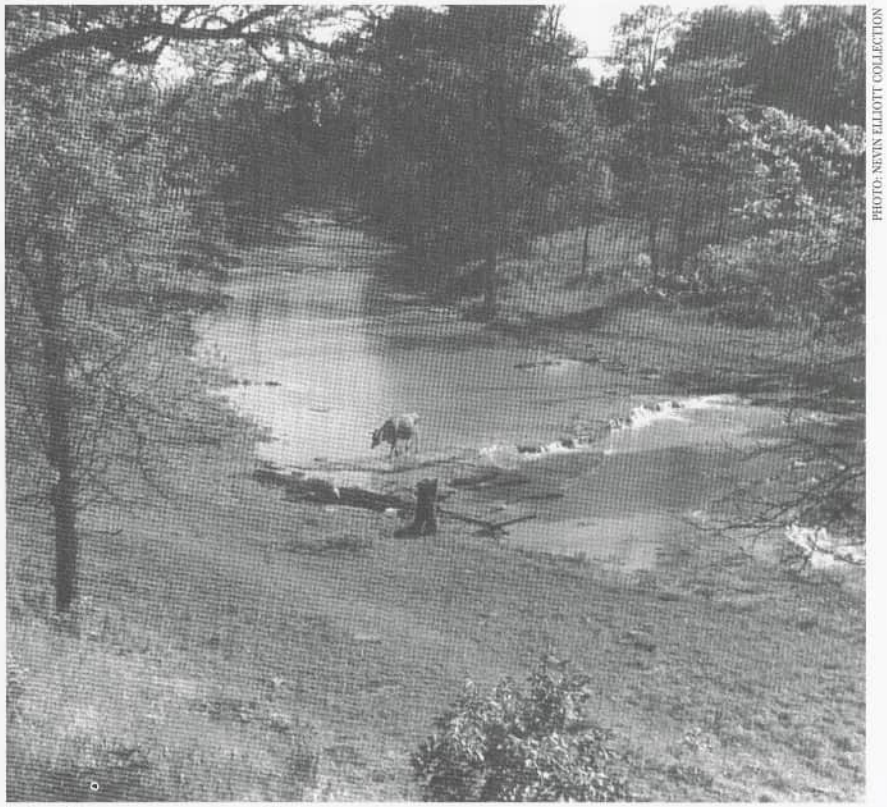


PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

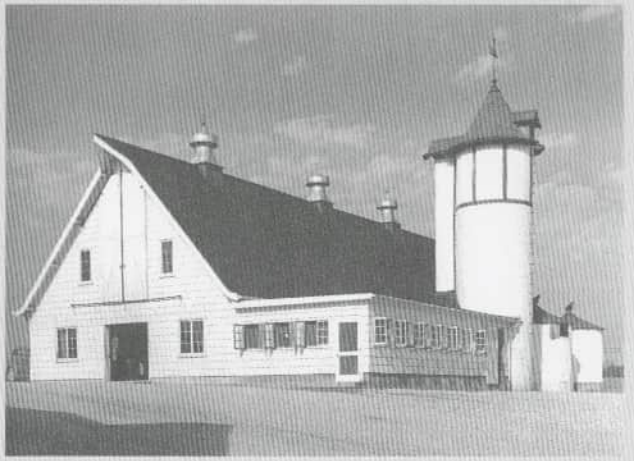
A lone Jersey cow crosses Holes Creek.

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"Got Milk?"



LEFT: Mr. Grant converses with Russell Elliott who is in the smaller delivery truck. Note the GMC hubcaps.
BELOW: Dairy Barn with milking parlor in the forefront. Milking Parlor was an addition
RIGHT: Jersey Cattle in pasture.





PHOTOS: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

LEFT TO RIGHT, BOTTOM ROW:

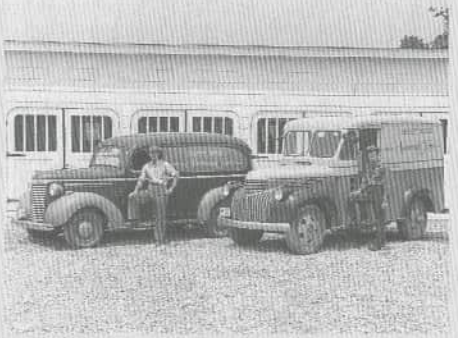
[A] The covered barn for cattle used during inclement weather with manure barn behind (also see aerial photo on page 38.)

[B] The boiler provided hot water for the cleaning processes necessary to maintain the dairy equipment.

[C] Wide Cherry-Burrell bottle soaker for washing and sterilizing bottles.

[D] Richard Truenbach cleans milker units and storage cans.

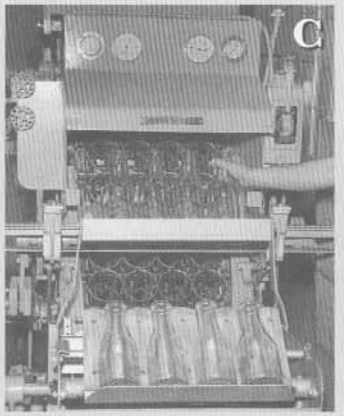
[E] The milking stalls in the milking parlor. Note the stainless steel milking machines (De Laval Milker) and the trough with grate for removing animal waste and keeping the stalls clean.

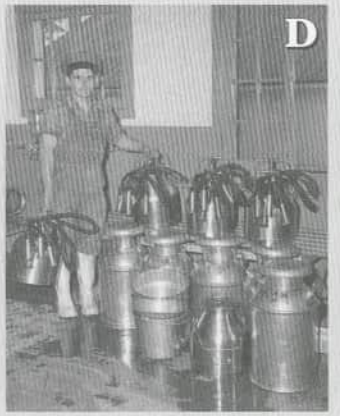


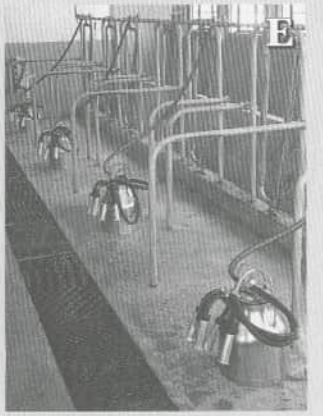
Russell Elliott (left) with his GMC truck and Nevin Elliott with his insulated Chevrolet delivery truck for store and home delivery.





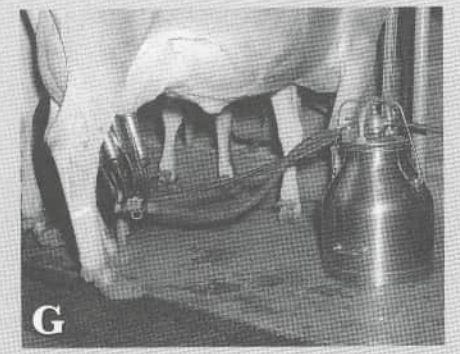


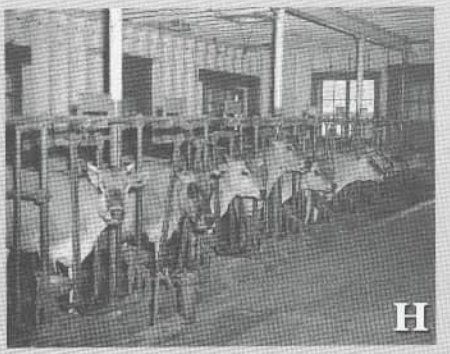




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G

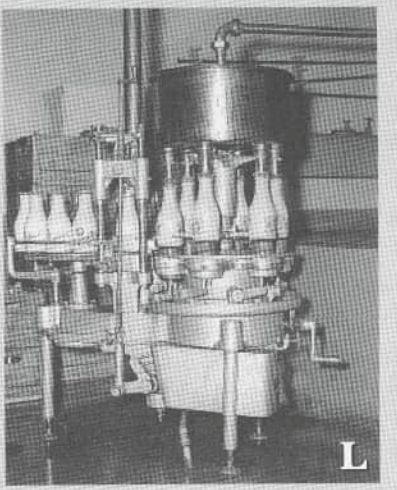

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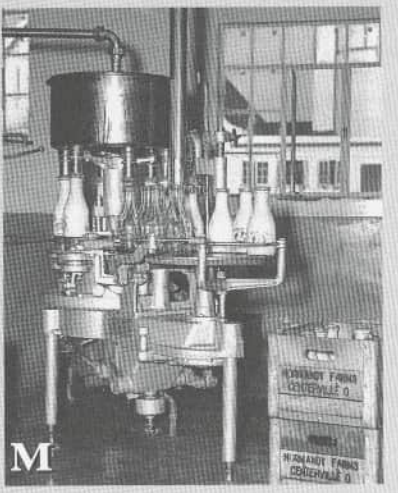

I


J



K


L


M

PHOTOS: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP ROW:

[F] The milking machine is attached to the Jersey cow.

[G] The milker in action fills the stainless steel containers.

[H] Dairy barn stalls loaded up. Up to eight cows could be milked simultaneously.
Notice that each cow has its own water fountain for comfort.

[I] Milk is poured into large stainless steel tanks and pasteurized.

LEFT TO RIGHT, BOTTOM ROW:

[J] & [K] Milk is then pumped through a Beston Stainless Steel Milk Cooler after pasteurization.

[L] & [M] From there it is pumped to the bottler and capper.



PHOTO: MARY LOU HUFFMAN COLLECTION

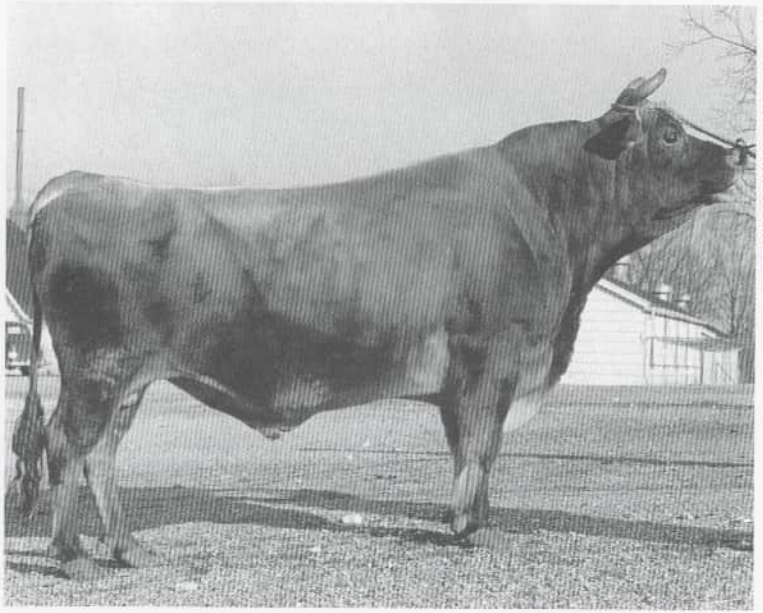
This is the breezeway between the milkhouse and the dairy barn at the Reynolds' cottage, known as the Milkhouse. At the porch (right) the screen has been ripped off by a small tornado—the kids' slide is also overturned. The garage shows in the background. Photo dated December 1955. (See pages 16 and 55.)



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When cows were dry, they were placed in a maternity barn, which had room for 14 dry cows, with six box stalls for calving needs."

Mrs. Grant notes in her book: "Father had assembled together one of the finest herds of Jersey cattle in America. He had worked on it for years, studying breeding and blood lines, I am sure he never studied harder at Harvard..."



PHOTOS: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Jersey Bull-Pine Tree Magic Standard

Grant prized his registered herd and spent many weekends with the Elliotts, studying cattle pedigrees. Occasionally, they accompanied the owner on buying trips around the country. On one such trip, Grant purchased an expensive bull for breeding purposes, but not long afterward, the bull died very mysteriously. An autopsy by Ohio State University vets revealed that the registered bull, Draconis Coronation, had ingested nails somewhere in his travels, which resulted in his death. Another prized bull, Pinetree Magic Standard, was purchased in Canada in 1943.

Nevin Elliott, the son of Russell and Laura Elliott, grew up with the business, milking cows after school and then working as a home deliveryman. He delivered about 500 bottles of milk in Centerville one day and the next day in Oakwood and Van Buren Township, (the forerunner of the city of Kettering); to the Centerville school cafeteria; and two groceries at Main and Franklin streets in Centerville. During this time he had earned enough money for a down payment on a 1937 Ford roadster. Afterward when the car was parked at the Elliott's home, Grant drove into the farm and seeing the car, manufactured by his keen competition, asked, "Who in the hell has a Ford on this farm?"



PHOTOS: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Nevin Elliott with his insulated Chevrolet milk delivery truck.

Nevin worked for three years without a day off and went into the Navy in 1944. His tour of duty took him on a trip around the world on merchant ships with the Armed Guard. While Nevin was away, Alexander Jump, who had been employed in service in the Grant mansion, took over the milk delivery route.



PHOTO: PAUL K. HORN FROM RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Jersey Classification Day. Laura Grant, second from left. Richard H. Grant, Jr., fourth from left.

After World War II, in the fall of 1945, the dairy was phased out with a dispersal sale of cattle and equipment, and Grant turned to raising Hereford beef cattle. He pastured a herd of 150 in the grasslands along Holes Creek and used a covered barnyard at his McEwen Road property to house cattle in winter. Elliott then became a partner in this operation with Grant.

The dispersal sale brought these comments from Mrs. Grant in her book, "There were Jersey breeders from almost every state in the union and the auction brought the highest price paid for a bull and a cow sold in that particular year. There were two men there, one from Texas and one from St. Louis, each had certified checks for $25,000, prepared to bid on his (Grant's) prize bull."

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PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Normandy Farms' Office Staff: Russell Elliott, R. H. Grant, Laura Elliott, office girl and Mildred Eby

SEASONS AT NORMANDY

SPRING

As soon as the soil thawed, readying fields for planting became the priority as farmers brought out plows from winter storage for sharpening.

By 1931 the farm was becoming mechanized and a McCormick-Deering 10-20 tractor was used for plowing fields. Later Elliott used tractors to cultivate rows for sowing oats, soybeans, wheat and hay. Next he disked the fields. As dogwood bloomed in Normandy woods in early May, a farm crew pulled a drill behind tractors to distribute corn, seeds, and fertilizers.

Meanwhile, Laura Elliott was busy planting a one-acre garden, next to the barnyard and raising baby chicks for summer laying hens, turkeys and ducks. She tended a large flock of Leghorns, kept in metal houses, which were equipped with laying bins for eggs. One hen house had a small basement room with an electric incubator to hatch chicks. The flock produced 8-10 dozen eggs per day.



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Richard Elliott with sheep cart and twin lambs.

As a farm wife, besides caring for their family and home, she helped in the fields. She would also assist in the birth of lambs in the spring. As they matured, sheep were turned out to groom the grass around the barns and in the Holes Creek area. Many sheep were sheared in spring and the wool was marketed from the flock of 200-300 Cheviots.

Richard Elliott has fond memories of lambs on the farm, when he bottle fed orphans, until they could eat for themselves. He recalls, "Once I had a set of twins to bottle feed. My mother made a harness for them and my brother built a cart and I drove them around the farm. One day I went into the dairy for a drink of water and left the twins outside, but when I returned they were gone. I found them in the dairy barn, where they had torn their harness and the cart on the cow's metal stanchions. That ended my driving lambs around the barnyard."

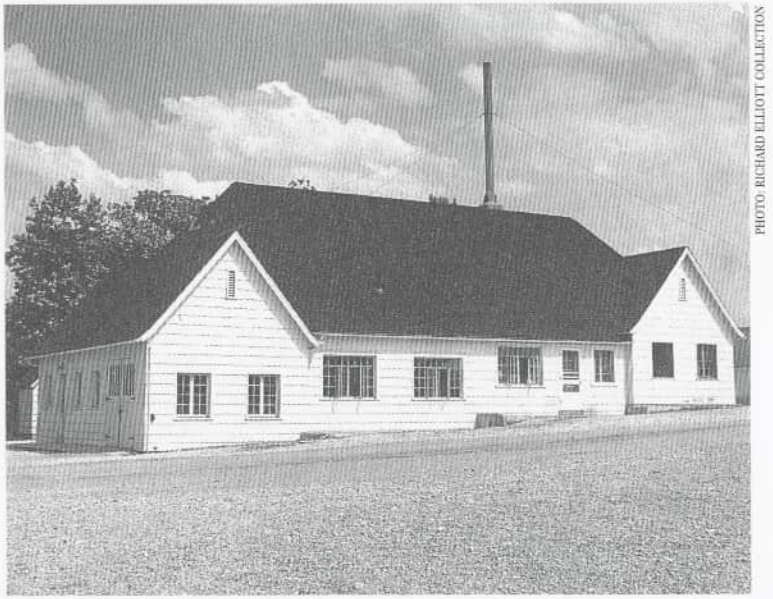


PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

The Farm Office with furnace pipe out of the center with guide wires.



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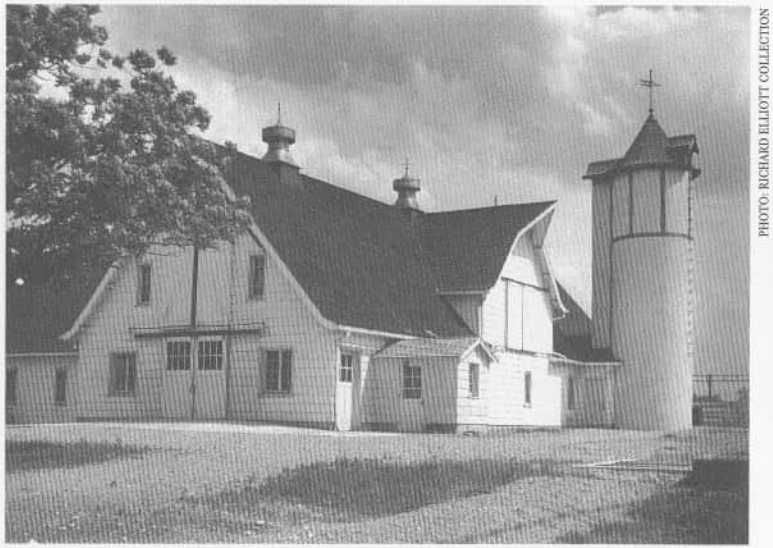


PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Horse Barn with hay loft above.

SUMMER

Haying in the heat was a common job on the farm as alfalfa was baled for cows, as well as a mixture of timothy and clover for horses, and stored for winter feed.

Nevin and Richard Elliott recalled helping in hay making, "In the field men forked hay and pitched it onto a wagon, which was moved to an open barn door. With a rope on pulleys, a huge hay fork from the mow dropped down to the wagon. From there a track, which carried loose hay into the mow, was released and workers in the mow spread the hay around." What powered this system was a horse pulling the rope on pulleys through the barn. Richard's job was to ride the horse at the command of the worker on the wagon, who controlled the fork.

This arduous operation was improved when balers, pulled behind a tractor, came into use. In the field one man rode on the baler putting in dividers for the bales, another poked wire through bales. A third man rode the wagon and stacked bales. Then the wagon was unhooked and a worker moved the load to the barn, where he placed bales on a conveyer, which moved them into the mow.

Hay was baled by a crew, many of whom were high school boys recruited by teacher, Ken Huffman. Huffman lived in the Grant cabin in the 1950s and often helped with farm work in summer.

Haying was not without its health hazards, as Richard Elliott suffered pneumonia from breathing dust in the hay field and was unable to help on the farm the remainder of one summer.



PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Bringing the hay wagon in from the fields.



PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Richard Elliott driving the tractor to hay baling.

Other summer tasks included plowing 200 acres of corn, until it reached the proverbial height of "knee high by the Fourth of July ."

Independence Day was not considered a holiday for farmers, including Elliott, who faced the job of threshing 40 acres of wheat early in July. A group of farmers in the neighborhood, the Millers, Phillips, Davises, Weavers, Kynes and Grant, pooled their resources to purchase a threshing machine. In a cooperative effort this "ring", excluding Grant, worked together in one another's fields with the machine while their farm wives cooked a delectable harvest meal at noon and often again in the evening.

Threshers cut the grain and tied it in bundles; then finally it was shocked to cure. The threshing machine separated the wheat from the straw into a huge pile which was left in the field or placed in a mow.



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Richard and Russell Elliott stand in corn "as high as an elephant's eye."

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With advances in mechanization, the threshing machine became obsolete. Farmers with combines harvested wheat, right in the field, combining and threshing, all in one operation. Straw came out in wind rows, then was bailed and loaded on a wagon to be stored in mows in barns. Oats, earlier in the year, were harvested by the same method and used for feed.

A good crop of some 300 acres of corn also was essential for winter to feed livestock. Corn was stored in immense cribs around the barnyard and also in the barn at McEwen Road. In August, when the corn was green, stalks were chopped by ensilage cutters and blown into silos through a pipe for storage.

After farm hands harvested wheat and corn crops, they trucked the grain to Centerville Mill, on Clyo Road, for grinding.

Farming with heavy equipment was an ever-present danger. Russell Elliott nearly lost an index finger while working on a corn picker. He had failed to turn off the engine and his glove became entangled in the machinery.

The Elliott boys made spending money, as they were growing up, painting innumerable fence posts on the farm and were paid a penny per post painted, plus 10 cents for a gate or end post. This was a never-ending summer task.



PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Scale bed swimming hole.

For summer recreation the boys swam in Holes Creek, near the bridge on the lane to the Grant's summer cabin in the woods. They constructed a diving board and spent many afternoons and evenings swimming with friends when chores were finished.

Once Richard Elliott created a makeshift swimming pool in a cement area, where a set of scales was to be installed. He and his neighbor friends enjoyed cooling off on a hot summer day.



PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Nevin Elliott on western pinto, Scout.

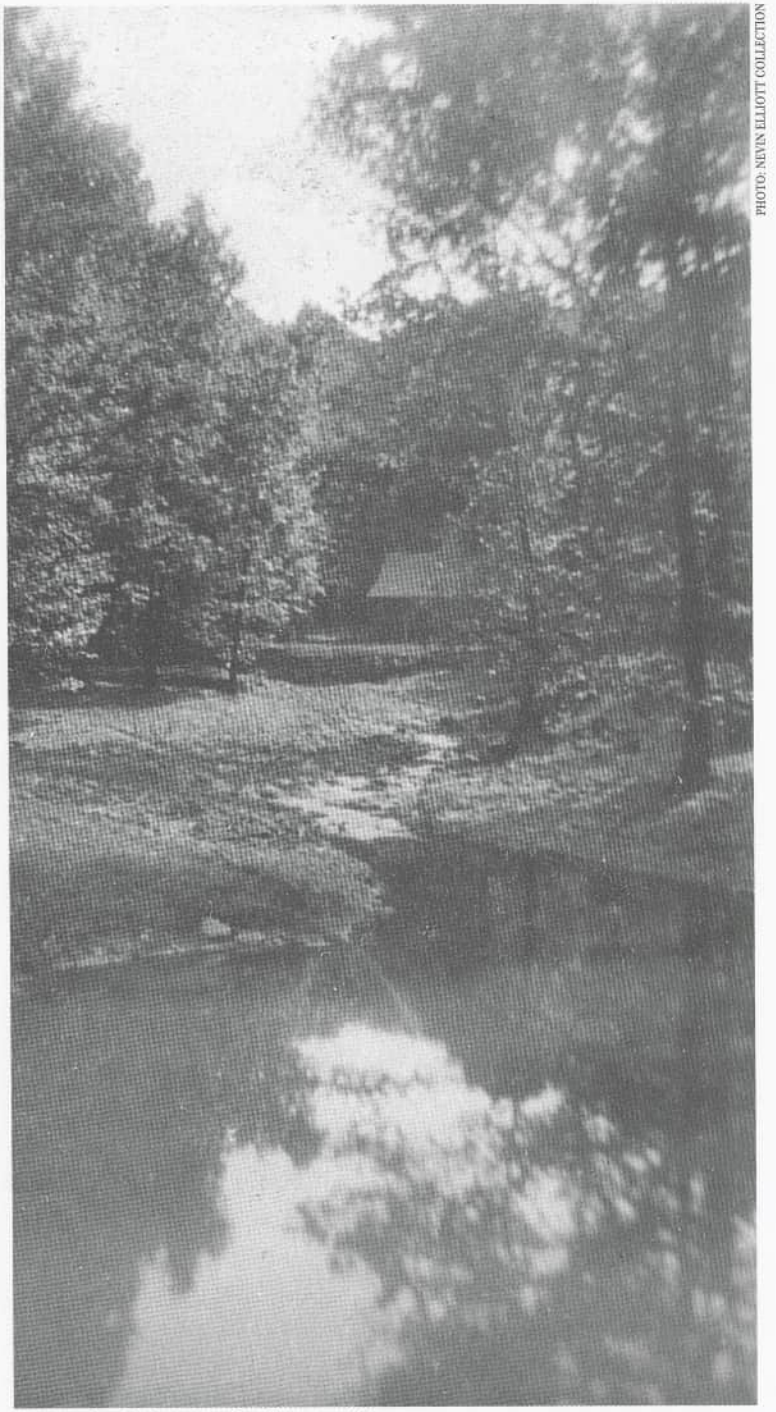


PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Swimming hole near the Grant cabin.

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He also once laid out a basketball court in an unused mow in a horse barn for games with his high school friends.

Combining work and pleasure, the boys vied for the job of rounding up sheep and cattle after school, bringing the animals into the barnyard from the woods and pasture. These Washington Township cowboys rode back the lane on Scout, a western pony, to perform these chores.

Fall

Plowing became a full-scale operation in October, November, and December, as weather permitted. Before planting winter wheat, which would lie under winter snow, Elliott disked corn stocks to rotate the crops.

Hauling and spreading manure remained an ongoing chore when fields were not frozen. Twice a day dairymen using shovels in gutters, scooped waste, which they placed in a cart and hauled to a manure shed for storage. Later using a spreader, pulled by horses or a tractor, they would fertilize the fields.

Itinerant blacksmiths made calls to a shop with an anvil and hearth to shoe riding horses and work horses on the farm and to repair farm equipment as needed.

During the holiday season Laura Elliott was called upon to dress ducks, geese, guineas and turkeys for the Grant family's use and to ship to their friends around the country. She baked turkeys and then her husband devised a steam engine hood, pipe and a barrel to smoke poultry in apple wood, two birds at a time. They packed the poultry in dry ice and shipped by rail from Miamisburg.

In late fall the couple would supervise the butchering of 40 hogs in the barnyard, near the smokehouse. Thus the Grants were supplied with bacon, ham and sausage, all processed in the smokehouse on the farm.

"Among democratic nations each generation is a new people," Alexis de Tocqueville wrote. Indeed, Grant was a new generation of farmer, who established himself as an innovator and entrepreneur, using machinery, new business methods and his own style of business acumen for success.

Operating a self-sufficient farm challenged most farmers, dependent on the elements and other factors, but Normandy Farms stands out as a working estate and productive community. Grant ran his estate like a giant corporation, marketing products like a wholesaler, as neighbors and businessmen came to buy, trade and breed livestock. Buying, selling and reaping profits from his land, Grant in turn supplied himself and his household with commodities.



PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

The 1938 Colt Show in the barnyard.

Local farmer Earl Miller fires shotgun to start the cornhusking contest.

PHOTO: BY JAMES N. KEEN. SOURCE: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Normandy Farm Events

Corn Husking and Colt Show, Classification and Water Works Parade

Two unique events occurred in the fall of 1938 and 1939 at Normandy Farms, as the newspaper, *The Dayton Journal Herald,* along with Grant, sponsored corn husking contests and colt shows.

The entire community, from farmers, villagers, the high school band and women of Centerville Methodist Church, served food and participated in the festivities, which attracted some 3,000 people to the farm.

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PHOTO: DAYTON JOURNAL. SOURCE: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

From **The Dayton Journal,** *Thursday, October 19, 1939:*
"Farmerettes for a Day Spread News of Corn Husking Contest
To help the Dayton Philharmonic committee in its efforts to foster the free children's winter concerts, these members of Alpha Iota Sorority of Miami Jacobs college are happily accompanying **The Dayton Journal's** *Chevrolet music wagon in its trek through Miami Valley advertising the Corn Husking contest and Colt show to be held Friday at Normandy Farms, the Richard H. Grant estate near Centerville. The girls are, from left to right, Sally Horrigan, Marjorie Judd, Florence Lemming, Mary Eleanore Peters, Betty Wysong, Serena [illegible], Sheila Whitmer. Jerry Sullivan, if you haven't noticed him, is at the wheel."*



PHOTO: BY JAMES N. KEEN . SOURCE: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Corn Husking Contest Parking in a 10-acre lot next to the barns. The promotional Chevrolet Bus in the foreground



Richard Grant addresses the crowd prior to the Corn Husking Contest.



Contestants husk corn while spectators follow along.

BOTH PHOTOS: BY JAMES N. KEEN . SOURCE: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION



PHOTO: BY JAMES N. KEEN . SOURCE: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

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PHOTO: BY JAMES N. KEEN FROM RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Cornhusking contestant

Throngs followed huskers along the corn rows to catch the action.

A blast from a shotgun started the yellow ears banging into wagons at 9:30 a.m. at the regional corn husking on an eight-acre tract. Seven entrants from valley counties vied for honors and division prizes.

Spectators saw weighing-in ceremonies as winners were announced by Lewis B. Rock, newspaper publisher, and R. H. Grant, who paid tribute to Elliott, his farm manager, giving him much credit for the events' success.

Robert Hart of Darke county, the winner, husked 23.2 bushels in the allotted 80 minutes in 1938. The next year husking teams winners were: Carl McCoy, first; Walter Davis, second; and R. W. Reeder, third, all local farmers.



PHOTO: BY JAMES N. KEEN FROM RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Weighing husked corn. Clyde Long, father of long-time community leader, Kermit Long, weighs John James production.



PHOTO: BY JAMES N. KEEN FROM RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Richard H. Grant, Sr., awards a check to corn husking winner, Robert Hart of Darke County.



PHOTO: BY JAMES N. KEEN FROM RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Richard Grant addresses the crowd at the Corn Husking Contest, October 21, 1938.

In May, Elliott planted Pioneer 314 hybrid corn, not a tall growing variety, which huskers could reach, using 125 pounds of fertilizer in a clean field, 60 rods long. He plowed the tract four times for a bumper crop.

Grant told the crowd that each year he and his manager established a quota of farm crops necessary to sustain livestock and horses maintained on the farm. He criticized interference of any kind that kept the farmer from raising adequate crops to meet his own needs. Grant closed his remarks by saying that the farmer should be self-sufficient, self-reliant, and above all maintain his independence.

In the afternoon a colt show was staged and judged by Frank Hunnicaut of Wilmington, veteran horse authority. Awards were made in the registered Belgian and Percheron colt classes and prizes of $72 were shared.

Events—Waterworks Parade and Dedication

Normandy Farms played a key role in the two day celebration, July 15-16, 1938, homecoming and parade as Centerville's water works and filtration plant were dedicated, marking the opening of the new system.

Centerville residents had long depended on wells and cisterns for their water supply, when work was begun on a new system in 1936. (One of the first wells dug by early settlers was located on the northwest corner of Main and Franklin streets. Also a well at the south side of Washington Township hall on North Main Street served as "town pump" for many years.)



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

The float from Normandy Farms for Dedication of the Water Works in Centerville, July 1938. Mr. Grant's granddaughter Peggy Reynolds is the last person in the float (no cap). This was Thirza's daughter. Hilda Whiffen Gillespie, facing Peggy in the nurse's hat on the right was the Grant children's governess in the late 1930s. Nevin Elliott leads the team of Belgians.

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At the Centerville Stone Quarry, no longer operating, water had filled cavities where rock had been removed for years. Two lakes became the source of a village water system with aid of a federal grant of $74,000 and $7,000 for materials in cooperation with the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The village council issued $7,500 of general obligation bonds and $31,000 of mortgage bonds to build the filtration plant on the east bank of the quarry. Water lines were laid throughout the village for fire protection and the Montgomery County Board of Health gave permission to use the water for drinking.

Among parade participants were: Centerville High School band, legionnaires, fire trucks and floats from other local organizations. Dignitaries included: Congressman Byron Harlan, Collins Wight, waterworks engineer, Judge Arthur H. Hay, Ohio Supreme Court, Mayor L.E. Bradford and Richard Grant. The parade formed at the south end of Normandy Lane and proceeded to the Waterworks.

R.H. Grant, who relied on a system of wells on his farms, as well as a pump house at the north end of Normandy Lane, was one of the catalysts in establishing the new village water system. Drought during the 1930s affected not only Normandy Farms, but also the villagers who still used individual wells of a dwindling water supply. Grant agreed to become the system's largest user for his household, swimming pool and farm needs, if such a system were built for his use and for some 150 village homes.

A pipe line was extended beyond the village limits, north on Normandy Lane, one and one-half miles west on Alex-Bell Road and 2,000 feet south to McEwen road. Another line was laid north on Route 48, 2,500 feet beyond Alex-Bell Road to accommodate Normandy Farms and other residents outside corporation limits, who were assessed $10,000 for water service.

Thirty years afterward, the burgeoning village abandoned an insufficient water supply from the quarry in favor of joining the Montgomery County water system.

* * *

After the sale of the mansion, vast acreage still remained, but a breakup appeared imminent. When developers eyed the beauty of the landscape as prime building sites for upscale housing, the Grant heirs favored the sale of parcels in the 1960s.

James Blakeney, certified public accountant and current Washington Township clerk-treasurer, worked for Roland (Sonny) Mehlberth, developer and president of Normandy Farms Development Company, for twenty years.

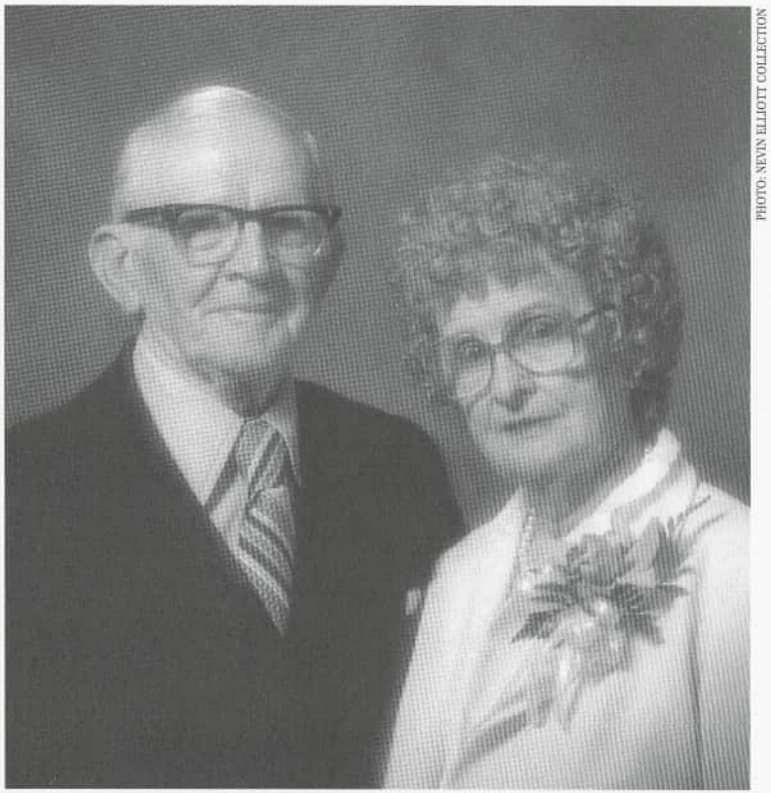


PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Russell and Laura Elliott in retirement circa 1972.

Blakeney describes the sequence of how the land was platted: "The first phase of construction in 1961 was situated on the north side of Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road from Durban Road to Yorkcliff Place, known as Normandy Farms Estates. A major developer was Richard Bowers. The second development began in 1963 and surrounded the Grant home, by then a church, and the final section was located south of the church. The first Homerama in the area was staged there in 1967. Sonny remembers that he built houses on his lots in the beginning, then later sold off lots to other builders, whose models were shown at this Parade of Homes."

Mehlberth, who is retired and now lives in Batesville, Indiana, challenged Washington Township zoning regulations 'in court and was successful in changing lot sizes from the required two-acre lots to half-acre lots. Zoning officials waived the rule when the Grant Park was created on forty-seven acres along Holes Creek in exchange for smaller lot sizes under a density zoning plan."

Also through a cooperative effort of zoning officials, the Board of Education and prime mover, Superintendent Hadley Watts, a visionary educator, Grant Nature Center was established on land adjacent to Normandy Elementary School and Grant Park.

Then a dispersal sale of farm equipment occurred in November, 1963. The following spring, in 1964, Russell and Laura Elliott, farm managers, retired to their home in Centerville after presiding over farm holdings for thirty-four years. Eventually, farm buildings were razed and the manager's residence was burned by vandals.

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Meanwhile, rumors and plans for a turnpike or bypass in this section of the township had been circulating for nearly a decade. After a long period of land acquisition and road construction of I-675, which was at last becoming a reality, the entrance to Normandy Elementary school was in danger of being blocked by the highway. Plans were modified and through the efforts of Evelyn List, Washington Township zoning commissioner and later township trustee, highway planners and the Board of Education, Normandy Lane (now known as Paragon Road) kept the school entrance open. In 1986, I-675 opened in this area.

Today hundreds of cars travel over I-675, once the heart of Normandy Farms, its woods, fertile farm land and buildings, but through community leadership, foresight and collaboration, Grant Nature Center and Grant Park now stand as a unique legacy.

* * *

The Himes Indian Mound

The most famous prehistoric Indian artifact in this area was the Himes Mound. Daniel Himes owned the land when the mound was first found by archeologists, S. H. Binkley and P. F. Pense in 1884. Stone and flint arrowheads and spears along with pottery were evidence that the mound was built by the Adena Indians over two thousand years ago. The misspelling of Himes on maps caused the location to be lost for several years. (See page 37. The map from 1875 shows the Himes property. The 1931 map shows that the land was later purchased by the Robert King family, close family friends and father-in-law to Richard Grant, Jr.

In 1975 members of the Centerville Historical Society rediscovered the location of the mound overlooking Normandy Lane near Alex-Bell adjacent to a stream that ran into Holes Creek. They informed the Ohio Historical Society which secretly excavated the site for the Federal Government and hauled off the relics to Columbus, Ohio, in 1978. This preceded the construction of I-675, which would have destroyed the mound anyway.

The oval mound was 50 feet in diameter and five feet high. It was layered with a base of clay and topped with a shelter with ten wooden posts holding up the roof. There was also a hearth outside the shelter. Five trash pits located under the shelter probably held food stuffs. The lack of working tools or burial bones led archeologists to believe the mound was ceremonial. Many Indian artifacts have been found near Holes Creek where Indians were active for thousands of years.



PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

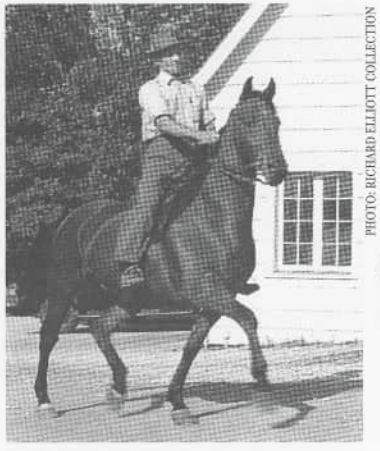
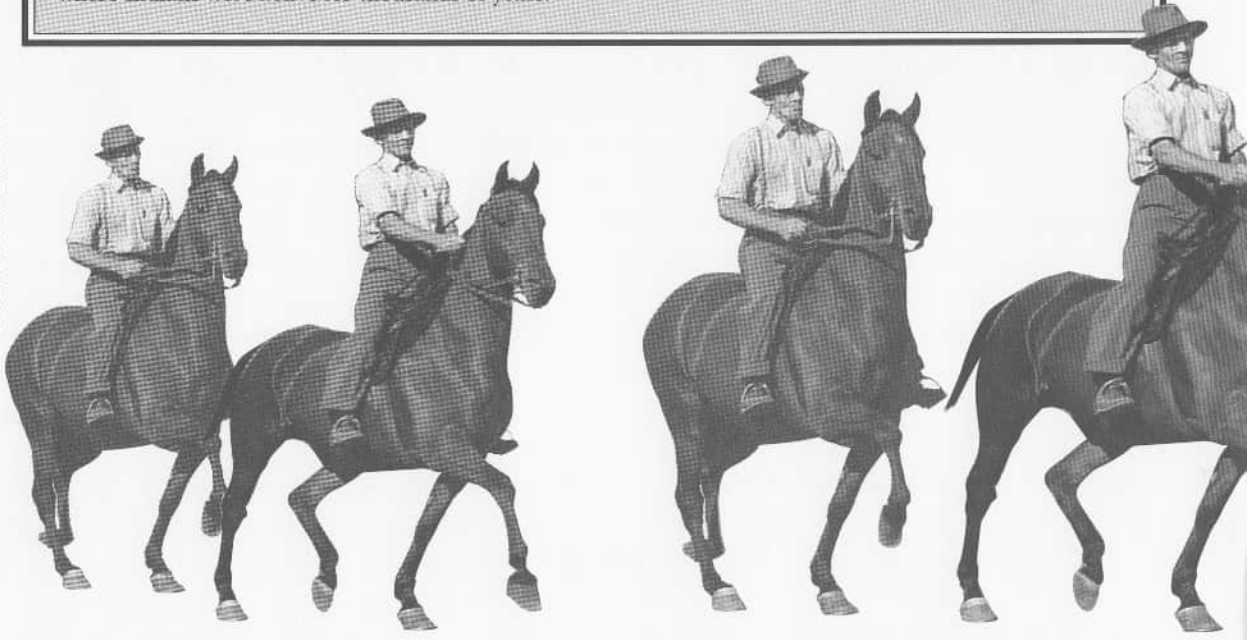


PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Russell Elliott riding 5-gaited saddlehorse, General Grant, around the farm.



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Additional Photographs



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Jersey Classification Day at Normandy Farms



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Jersey Classification Day at Normandy Farms, Richard Grant, Jr. 2nd from left, Richard Grant Sr., 4th from left

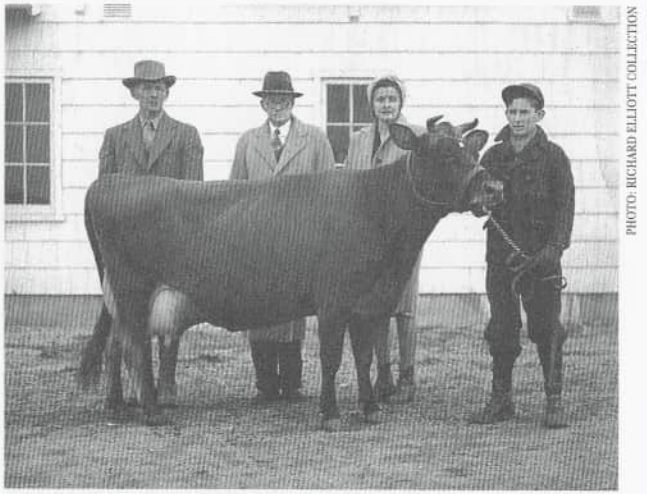


PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Russell Elliott, Mr. Grant, Laura Elliott, Richard Elliott with Brampton Basileus Violet Cow ($5000.00) an excellent cow. Her heifer calf sold for $3000.00.

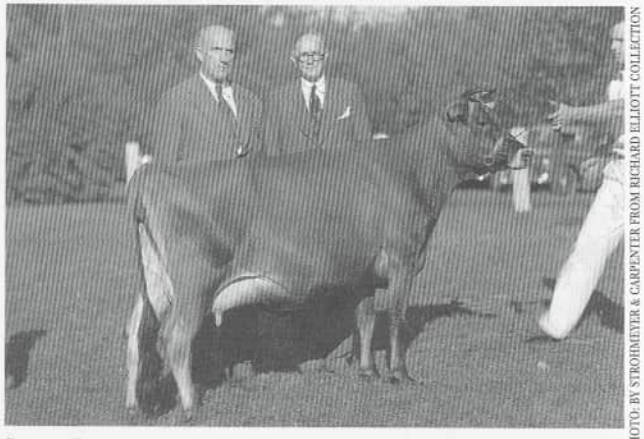


PHOTO: BY STROHMEYER & CARPENTER FROM RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Jersey Buy. Brampton Basileus Violet 2nd which sold in the Sale of the Stars at Columbus, Ohio, October 1944 for $5000.00. Left to right behind the cow are Duncan O. Bull of Brampton, Ontario of the firm of B. H. Bull & sons who donated the cow to the sale and R. H. Grant of Normandy Farm, Centerville, Ohio who purchased her.



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Jersey calf in stall.



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Calf being born—You'll Do Maxine Rose.

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PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Horse Barn



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Margaret Decker and the other ladies of the Centerville Methodist Church provide a well deserved pie and coffee to the hungry cornhuskers.



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Horse Barn

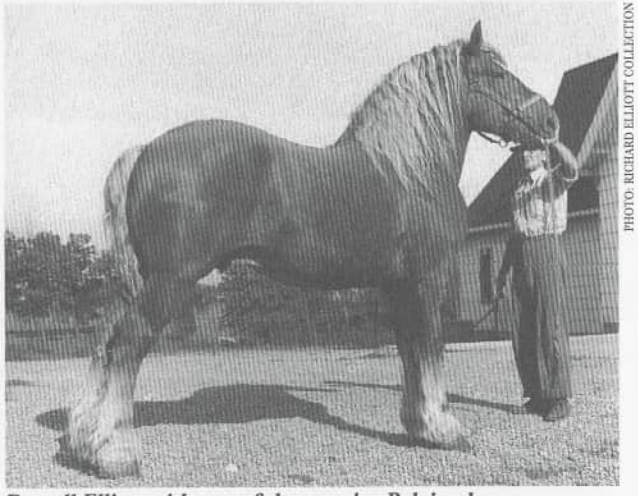


PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Russell Elliott with one of the massive Belgian horses



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Richard Grant Sr., awarding prizes at Cornhusking



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Cows in pasture



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Jersey Cows in the upper pasture.



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Richard Grant, Sr., watching the Cornhusking competition with local friends

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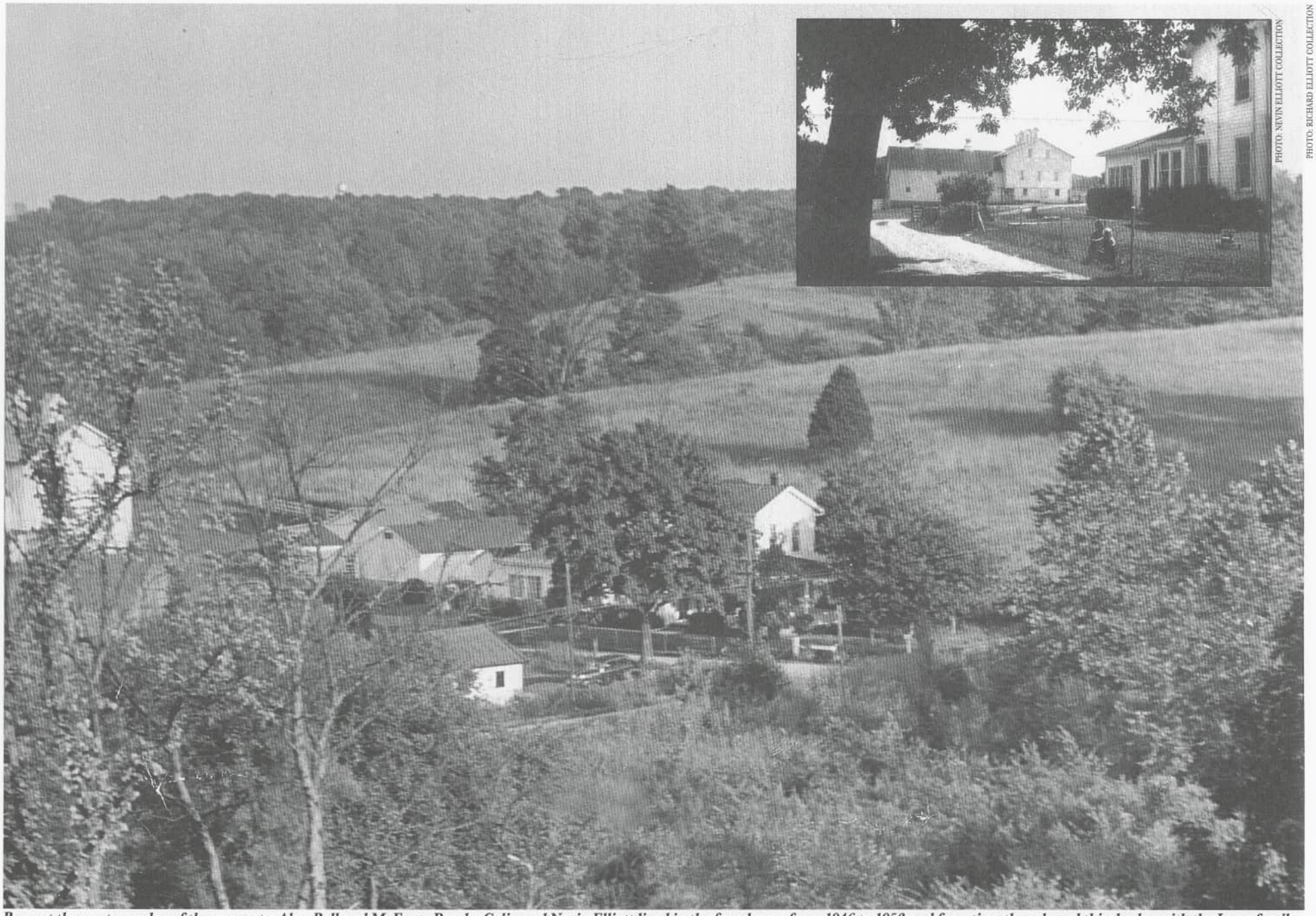


PHOTO: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Barn at the western edge of the property, Alex-Bell and McEwen Roads. Celia and Nevin Elliott lived in the farmhouse from 1946 to 1953 and for a time they shared this duplex with the Jump family. Alexander and his wife Betty had been in service at the Grant Mansion. They had two boys, Gordon and Jeffrey. Gordon became a nationally known actor; Jeffrey later owned a paint store in Centerville. The Centerville water tower is on the horizon to the left. (Inset) McEwen Road Entrance to Normandy Farms, barn still extant at entrance to park.

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PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Home of Howard and Lillie Miller, parents of Laura Elliott, at the northeast corner of McEwen Rd. at Centerville-Miamisburg Pike (near current Saturn dealership). (Below) Howard and Lillie Miller, August 4, 1946.



PHOTO: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROLDER COLLECTION. PHOTO: DON WALLACE, DAYTON, OHIO

(Above) The putting green at the cabin, circa 1930. Leaning against the cabin is the archery target for the archery range.



PHOTO: KEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

(Above) Celia Elliott, Farm Section author, on the bridge in Normandy Farm crossing Holes Creek near the chimneys area, circa 1940.



PHOTO: MARY LOU HUFFMAN COLLECTION

(Left) The old farm lane ascending the hill into the woods, circa 1950

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PHOTO: MARY LOU HUFFMAN COLLECTION



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION. PHOTO: DON WALLACE, DAYTON, OHIO



PHOTO: MARY LOU HUFFMAN COLLECTION

(Above, left) March 1959. The Huffmans' daughters, Jean, left, and Janet, right, atop the stone outdoor grill pit at the Grant cabin.
(Above, right) circa 1930. The stone outdoor grill pit and picnic area at the Grant cabin.
(Below, left) The Huffmans' son Tom, now living in Boulder, Colorado, with his dog Ike in October, 1960, at the east end of the cabin.
(Below, right) The Huffmans, Mary Lou, Janet and Jean, had a wiener roast nearly every Sunday while staying on Normandy Farms.
Mr. Huffman taught and coached at Centerville H.S. in 1950s and later in Kettering.
Mary Lou taught in Centerville and then in Kettering. She retired in 1979. They lived in the Reynolds "Milk House" 1952-1957 and in the Grant cabin 1957-1962.



PHOTO: MARY LOU HUFFMAN COLLECTION

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AUCTION!

FARM MACHINERY TRUCK
HOUSEHOLD GOODS MISCELLANEOUS

LOCATED—10 miles south of Dayton, 1mile northwest of Centerville, 5 miles east of Miamisburg, off Route No. 725 on Normandy Lane. (Normandy Farms)

SATURDAY, NOV. 9, 1963

BEGINNING AT 10:30 A. M.

FARM MACHINERY

Two Farmall "M" tractors, Farmall "H" tractor; IHC cultivators for "H" or "M" tractor; F-30 Farmall tractor; New Holland "77" bailer; Case A-6 combine; Case ensilage field chopper & blower, (like new); John Deere 4 row corn planter; 17 hoe John Deere grain drill; two New Idea tractor manure spreaders; manure loader; New Idea tractor mower; New Idea two row picker; side delivery rake; two pull type breaking plows; two rubber tired wagons; box bed wagon; cultipacker; rotary hoe; two double discs; one horse drill; three grain elevators; drag; etc.; tractor grass seeder; Friend orchard sprayer; tractor umbrella and other items of farm machinery.

TRUCK—1951 Chevrolet 2 ton truck with grain bed and stock racks. (12,000 actual miles).

TOOLS AND MISCELLANEOUS

1½ H.P. air compressor; 1 ton chain hoist; Duro well pump; oil drums with pump; Gravely tractor; Roof fence row mower; Stewart Clipmaster; Stewart Shearmaster; dehorners; anvil; forge; large vise; exhaust fan; pipe dies; wheel puller; electric drill; platform scales; taps and dies; 2 sets double iron gates; steel drums; cement mixer, (Jeager); buzz saw; floor jack; 200 buff glazed wall tile; several electric motors from ½ H. P. to 1½ H.P.; road grader; two hog feeders; water tanks & troughs; calf creep feeder; can rack; pig brooders; three 4 ft. length 18-in. tile; hot bed and window sash; 29 in. x 56 in. storm sash; hog houses; numerous wrenches and small hand tools plus many other miscellaneous items.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Office desk and chair; several metal filing cabinets; combination radio, record player and recorder; Zenith radio; bedroom suite; two single cots; four antique chairs; oil lamps for old Ford car; wagon wheels; very old dinner bell; 12 gauge shotgun; 410 gauge shotgun; 22 rifle and other household items.

1000 bales clover hay.

TERMS—CASH. **Lunch by Centerville Grange**

RUSSELL ELLIOTT, Owner

STANLEY & WORKMAN, Auctioneers. **LOREN SIMS, Clerk**
Xenia DR 2-3172 — Waynesville 2481.

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS

PHOTO: CELIA ELLIOTT COLLECTION

The farm auction in 1963 meant the beginning of the end of an era, as the assets of the farm were distributed to the public six years after Richard Grant's death.



PHOTO: BY JAMES N. KEEN - SOURCE: RICHARD ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Local farmer cools down after the corn husking contest, 1938.

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The History of Normandy United Methodist Church



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

"In my Father's house are many mansions. . ."

St. John 14:2

SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Normandy Church in 1956 after it was bought from Richard Grant. Note the wishing well in the center and lush original landscape vegetation.

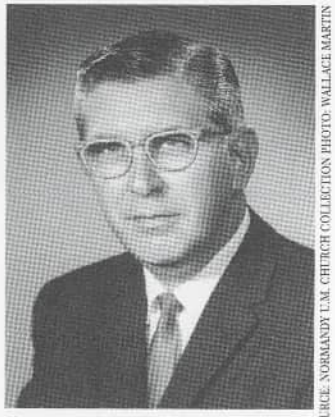
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The History of Normandy United Methodist Church

Normandy Evangelical United Brethren (E.U.B.) Church came into being in 1955 in part because of the Grant family's need for a smaller home. The Grants had been looking for a buyer for their home because it was getting too difficult for them to get around in such a large house. Both Laura and Richard Grant were in failing health. Each had suffered a stroke. The tiny one-person elevator that was set into the small curving stairway created an easier access to the second floor but was still inadequate for moving around such a vast home.

At a meeting, Mr. Grant had spoken of this to Dr. William Messmer, President of the E.U.B. Church Conference Mission Board. Dr. Messmer told Grant of the Conference's search for a location for a church south of town. Thus, the two men saw one solution to both of their problems. Grant at first wanted to give the building to the church, but his lawyer told him that an inheritance law would put the building back into the family estate at full taxation if he should die within two years of donating it. (Ironically Grant did die a couple of days over two years after the sale to the church.) So the two men agreed upon a price of $125,000 for the building and twelve acres. Additionally, Grant generously provided the loan at only one percent interest. The purchase had consisted of 13 acres including the mansion, the gatehouse, the pool, a tennis court, and a nine-car garage. A few extra acres were bought later to create a more even boundary at 15.15 acres. Mr. Grant's generosity in this sale made it possible for a mission church to develop within lovely surroundings.

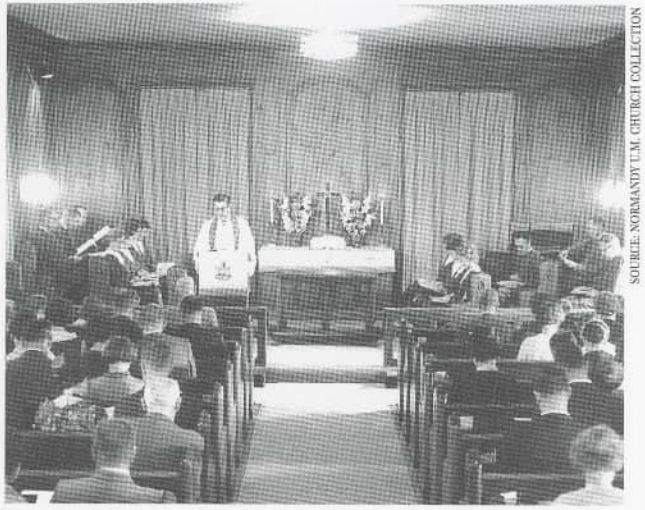
The church's first minister, Milford Ater, born in Chillicothe, Ohio, had been active as a youth director at Camp Miami while attending the old Bonebrake Seminary (currently known as United Theological Seminary at 1810 Harvard Boulevard in Dayton). Also, he had been a temporary pastor at Antioch E.U.B. Church in Brookville. After Dr. Messmer and Grant agreed on the sale conditions, Messmer gave Reverend Ater a new assignment: leave the Brookville church and take over the new church in the south suburbs of Dayton. Ater was reluctant but after seeing a picture of the new church in the newspaper with the date of his birthday next to it, he felt that there was a special calling for him.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION. PHOTO: WALLACE MARTIN

Reverend Milford Ater, circa 1955.

Early members of the church, Mel and Armetha Snider, reminisced about their introduction to the new church. While members of the United Brethren Church on Perry Street, the Sniders had heard about the new E.U.B. Church starting south of Dayton on West Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road. It would be closer for them to attend the new church from where they lived then. Armetha worked at Rike-Kumler Department Store in downtown Dayton, and was acquainted with Millie and Milford Ater who had previously met each other while working in Rike's shoe department. Joining the budding congregation appealed to the Sniders because of the Aters.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Reverend Ater leads the congregation in worship in the first sanctuary, the Grants' former living room, circa 1958.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Mrs. Millie Ater (right) assisting in a preschool Sunday school class in the former nursery area, circa 1958.

The new church had its first service on September 18, 1955, in the Grant's former living room, now the chapel at the east end of the building. A raised platform was built at the far end of the room to elevate the altar. Ruth Ann Jones acted as the first organist and Ater's nephews sang for the service, thus becoming the first choir. Larry Loschert, the husband of Lib Loschert, Ater's sister who had helped them adopt their three-year-old daughter, Becky, was the first to handle the collection receipts and to count the collection money each Sunday.

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SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Early EUB Church service dismissed, circa 1957.

A few days later, on October 2nd, the church was organized.

It wasn't until January 6th, 1956, after the morning service, that the church officially assumed its own financial responsibilities. The treasury had $1,002 by then and the church started to pay its own bills officially.

The church held a large garage sale to dispose of some of the things the Grants had donated. The whole community showed up for this most unusual sale, which included a totem pole, stuffed animal heads, costumes, and other unique things. The attic had many interesting items which were of no real use to a church but made desirable collectibles for local attendees.

Because the women of the church had no equipment for the kitchen, the E.U.B. Conference held a "shower" for Normandy Church. It was the Oak Street E.U.B. Church that really helped to get things started by donating towels, pans, dishes, and silverware for this "shower."



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Reverend Milford Ater greets church members outside the first chapel between services. To the left are acolytes Gary Smith, and Chuck Thomas, behind them the Children's Choir, Becky Ater (obscured by Chuck), ascending stairs, Sue Knierer, Cindi Gahris, Rick Moore, circa 1957.

Pastor Ater, Millie, and Becky lived in Normandy's guest suite in 1955, but in December, Grant's lawyer said they had to move out of the suite because of a legal problem which involved using a non-profit organization, such as a church, as a residence. The Aters then stayed at a motel at the corner of Far Hills and East Whipp Road adjacent to Edwin "Monkey" Miller's General Store. Normandy's church members then combined the former apartments within the gatehouse, remodeling them into one house. Many of the congregation participated in the renovation. Gordon George steamed off the wallpaper and H. Huffman painted. The redecorated gatehouse served the Aters as a parsonage until their departure in 1975.

A few days past the two year anniversary of the sale of the Normandy E.U.B. Church, Richard H. Grant died on September 24, 1957. His funeral was conducted by Pastor Ater in the chapel that was once Grant's living room. Grant, who had died of a heart attack in New York at his Fifth Avenue home, was buried in the Centerville-Washington Township Cemetery. His wife, Laura, who died on December 23, 1970, was buried



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Congregation leaving church in the late 1950's.

beside him in the Grant plot. Their son, Richard H. Grant, Jr., who died on June 5, 2001, was buried beside her. All three of their funerals were conducted at Normandy Church. The Grant burial plot is adjacent to the Reynolds family plot, just as the Grants' property was next to the Reynolds' property during their lives.

During the Sesquicentennial of the Ohio Miami Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, Pastor Ater became a playwright. In 1960 the church participated in his drama, *Prevailing Hope*. In addition to writing, Ater produced and acted in this play directed by Dottie Lentz (who was a member of Centerville's Town Hall Players).

One of the early group efforts of Normandy Church was its famous annual "Fish Fry" put on by the men of the church. The whole community turned out for these yearly dinners held in front of the church parking circle. Other competing events on Memorial Day Weekend brought about the demise of the "Fish Fry" in the mid-1970's

After the E.U.B. Conference had sent out engraved invitations with a picture of the church to the rapidly growing Centerville-Washington Township community,

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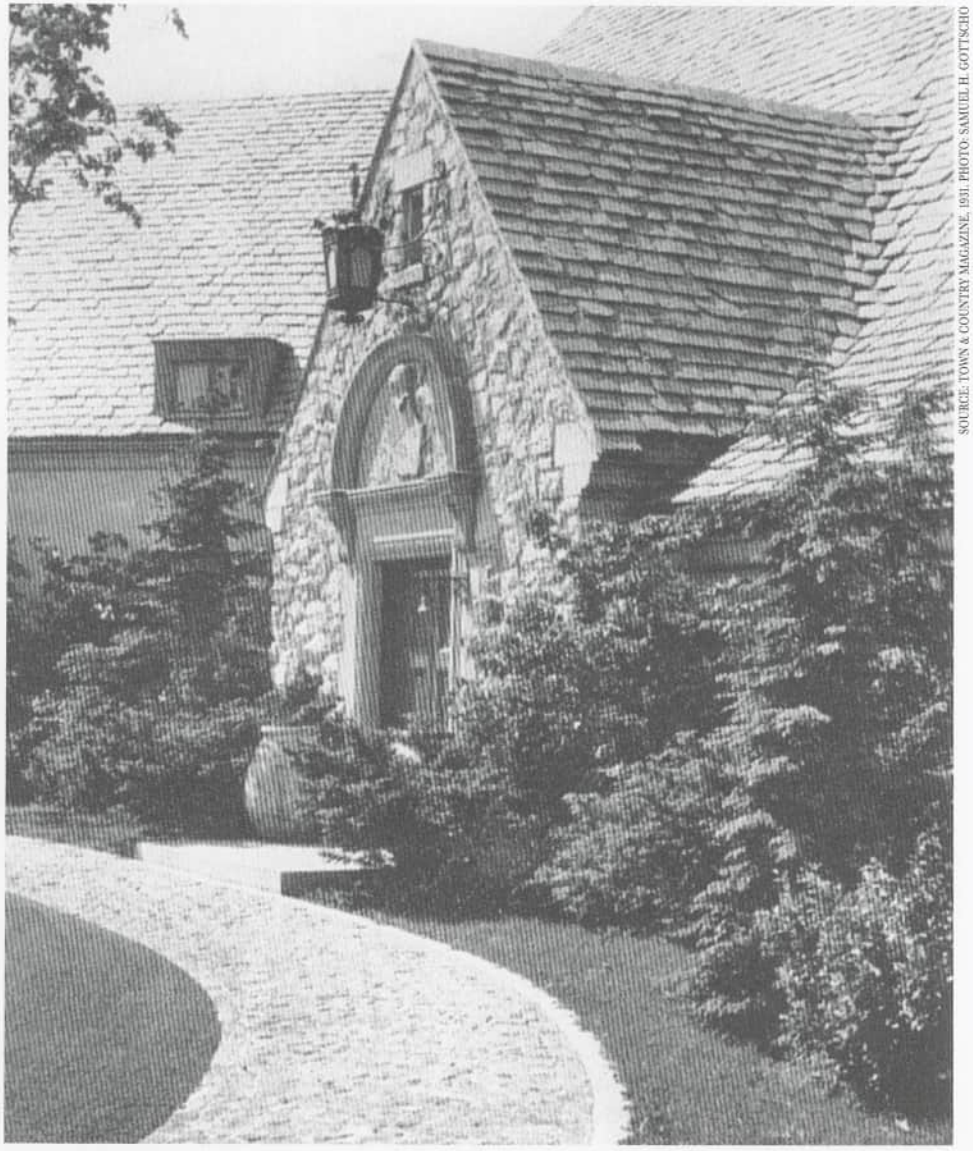
Reverend Ater greets worshipers, Janet and Jim Black after services, circa 1959.

membership increased rather quickly. Residents of the area were curious about seeing the mansion-turned-church. People, who came out of curiosity, liked the members and friendly atmosphere and remained to become parishioners themselves.

By 1960, many changes had to be made. Over $100,000 was spent in remodeling and creating parking spaces. The swimming pool was maintained for use of the church members who wished to be a part of the Swimming Pool Association. Members, friends, and neighbors enjoyed the pool for some 20 years until 1988 when the church trustees decided that it was not worth the cost of the upkeep and that members had lost interest. The pool was filled with soil, and a surrounding fence and bath house were removed to build a picnic area on the site.

Two choirs existed plus a children's choir. At the same time a 10-bell handbell choir was started. Through the 1960s Don Gahris was choir director. In the 1970s he became choir director at Centerville United Methodist Church until his death in 1973.

In the early days of the church a number of mission projects was instituted. The women of Normandy Church started a mission to St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Dayton. The scope of the mission has now grown to include "Love Bags" of food



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1931. PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

The front door gives a sense of warmth to the building.

on a regular basis, special prepared dinners for holidays, pancake breakfasts, special requests for clothing items like shoes, and Santa Claus parties with gifts and breakfast. Some church members, like Nancy Bush and Carol Arnold, became involved with the actual functions of St. Paul's. The "Furniture Pantry" collects household needs and furniture for people with emergencies in Dayton and Montgomery County.

Because of the growing needs of an expanding congregation, plans were made in 1960 to build a new sanctuary. Three services each Sunday in the chapel were

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SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

An elementary Sunday school class meets in the Grants' former suite, circa 1958.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION, PHOTO: PAUL WILL

Junior high Sunday school meeting in the former billiard room, circa 1964



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Junior and high school students meeting in the Grants' former recreation room (shiproom) circa 1965.

inadequate to accommodate the entire congregation. The new sanctuary was built onto the southwest end of the former mansion, adjacent to the kitchen of the west wing.

On June 2, 1963, Bishop Paul Herrick and Dr. William Messmer dedicated the new octagon-shaped sanctuary, designed by Hart and Hart and constructed by the B. G. Danis Company at a cost of $250,000. A small stage on the south side was used as a choir area. Also, a large, well laid out kitchen and pantry were located on the west

THE POOL

During the Grants' tenure, the pool had floodlights from above, lights under the water and a set of punched water pipes in a recessed channel above the waterline which sprayed a curtain of water from each side in an arc over the pool for aquashows. The pool was retained for day and night use during the church's first few decades.

During those early summers the pool was open for the congregation's recreational purposes. For the first few years patrons would change in the large restrooms in the basement of the church then walk down to the pool area. Within a few years a concrete block bathhouse was placed at the back (south) end of the pool area. For safety a high chain link fence, with a concession booth, was added to surround the pool area.

Each Sunday at 5 p.m. the pool would be shut down and families would bring out their blankets and a picnic basket and sit on the sweeping south lawn leading to the pool. At 6 p.m. Rev. Ater would commence Evening Vesper Service over the loudspeakers from the church. He would read spiritual poetry with beautiful, calming organ music playing in the background. Rev. Ater described it as "a spiritual Moon River." (Editor's Note: Moon River was a popular late night radio program broadcasted on WLW radio from Cincinnati. It consisted of softly spoken poetry being read, usually by Peter Grant, with sentimental pipe organ music playing in the background. This was alternated with melodic, three-part harmonies by the DeVore sisters.)



SOURCE: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

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SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The church from northeast corner of the property, near Normandy Lane and Alex-Bell, circa 1960. Note the original west wing.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Artist's rendition of architects' (Hart and Hart) design for the new sanctuary as seen from the pool area, circa 1962.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The Reverend Milford Ater

side of the new sanctuary. This sanctuary was designed for conversion to a "Fellowship Hall" at a later time when a larger sanctuary would be needed as membership grew. There were Sunday School rooms located under the sanctuary with restrooms and a long basement hall connected to the old furnace room. The seating capacity was 340 with one aisle.

In 1965 a second pastor, The Reverend Harvey Smith, was added to the staff as a result of the merger taking place between the E.U.B. Church Conference and the Methodist Church Conference. When this merger was finalized in April 1968, the name of the church was changed to Normandy United Methodist Church.

New faces began to replace well-known church leaders as Normandy's membership continued to grow. In

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SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

This drawing, from approximately 1958, was used on the church bulletins.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Worship services from late 1963 to early 1997 were in the octagonal sanctuary. See color photo on page 111.

1975, after serving Normandy Church for twenty years, Pastor Ater resigned his position as Senior Pastor to specialize in a career of counseling in a Springfield hospital.

As of June 15, 1975, Bishop Ensley appointed the The Reverend Glenn Copeland as Senior Pastor of Normandy. Copeland and his wife, Sarah, were very popular with the congregation. Reverend Copeland added an intellectual aspect to church sermons and activities. He also organized a foundation to help cover the cost of maintenance of the church facilities. The Normandy Endowment Fund had a specific amount of principal that must be maintained before any of the monies could be used. Thus, there would always be funds for repairs.

In 1980, during Rev. Copeland's tenure, the church took the lead in establishing Sunday School classes for handicapped children. Six other churches in the area joined in support of this effort. June Zipperian led the classes with the help of assistants. The students included mentally and physically challenged children. It was very successful until Ms. Zipperian moved away in 1996. Another teacher could not be found.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

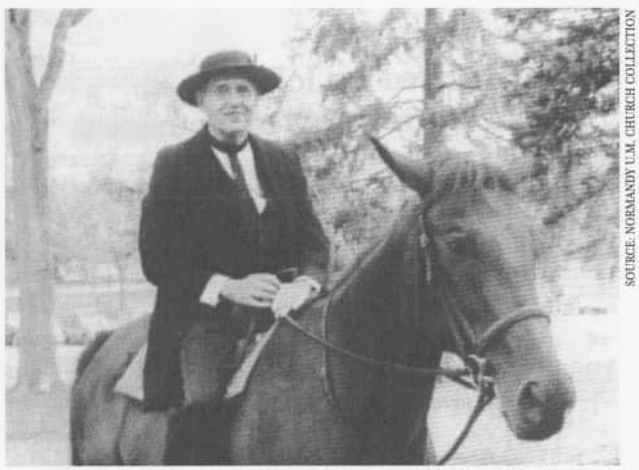
The 1963 Sanctuary which would later become the Fellowship Hall.

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Another successful mission started in August 1980. The church sponsored a family of boat people from Southeast Asia. The Huhyn family with nine children, eight boys and one girl, plus Ms. Huhyn's mother were successfully housed, and a job was found for the father. The Huhyn family has always included church members in Christmas cards and the weddings of their children.

By 1980 the membership was 1,465 and the church had a grand 25th anniversary celebration under two tents on the front grounds. During this period Bill McCord became the choir director. David Trout and Joseph Beavon were associate pastors. The sudden death of Reverend Copeland in June of 1981 brought the appointment of The Reverend Don Collins as Senior Pastor in November of 1981. His wife, Mary, was often the leader in bazaar projects.

Members of Centerville Historical Society, who were also Normandy Church members, including Gloria Clouse, began preparing information needed to put Normandy United Methodist Church on the National Register of Historic Places. The building was unique and the owner, R. H. Grant, was a well-known industrialist. In 1984 the property was accepted into the registry.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Reverend Don Collins as he appeared on Old Fashioned Days, 1988. He served as pastor from 1981 until his retirement in 1989.

Collins and his wife, Mary, became very active participants in all of the church's activities. Pastor Collins will long be remembered riding on a horse, dressed as a circuit preacher in a costume made by Mary during the Methodist Bicentennial celebration in 1984. Normandy heard the words of John Wesley's sermons and Francis Ashbury's tent jubilee speech. A student designed a special flag for the church which mysteriously vanished as did an antique tapestry hanging in the vestibule where a British brass rubbing now hangs.

The Women's Bazaar became well established and well attended at this time and the sale items earned a reputation for quality workmanship. When Pastor Collins decided to retire in June 1989, the Bazaar ladies secretly made a personal quilt to give to Mary Collins and the pastor when they left and moved to Florida.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The ladies of the Women's Bazaar created this personalized quilt to commemorate Pastor Collins' retirement. (Left to right) Jane Dillabaugh, Nancy Bachmann, Della Graham, Joann Treffinger, Janet Thobaben.

After the departure of the Collins family, the United Methodist Conference appointed the The Reverend Charles Titko as Senior Minister. Also, in June, The Reverend Ronald A. Hoeksema, who had served Normandy as a student pastor since 1987, became Associate Pastor, replacing The Reverend Michael Donnally. In October, 1989, The Reverend Phyllis H. Scholp was appointed to Normandy Church as a part-time Associate Pastor.

On September 16, 1990, Normandy United Methodist Church celebrated its 35th anniversary. Attendees of a special service at 1:30 p.m. heard The Reverend R. Robert Kimes, the District Superintendent, give the invocation and Dr. William Messner relate Normandy's beginnings. The recognition of 161 charter members followed and Pastor Titko gave the closing benediction.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Parishoners travel to Ohio's first Methodist mission, the Wyandot Methodist Mission Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, June 30, 1984. (Left to right) Jim Russell, Dale Lucas, Phyllis Lucas, Dottie Lentz, Loraine Adams, Leota Russell, and Fuzzy Lentz.

At this time, a group called "Emmaus" contacted the church to ask if its members could use the church for a retreat. This group sponsored weekend spiritual retreats that were called "A Walk to Emmaus". The trustees gave permission and since 1990, Emmaus has had a special place in Normandy's agenda. The restrooms in the lower level were refurbished for overnight retreats. In addition to the weekend retreats, the church often sponsored overnight retreats.

When Pastor Titko resigned for medical reasons in 1991, The Reverend Gail D. Rohrbacker was appointed Senior Pastor in June. Thomas H. Maxedon, Jr. served as Associate Pastor from July 1991 to July 1993.

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SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Normandy congregation members performing community service by serving dinner at St. Paul's.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Armetha and Mel Snider at the usher's potluck dinner in the 1980s.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Steel structure for new sanctuary under construction in 1996.

When Pastor Rohrbacker left, The Reverend David Frazer served as Senior Minister as of July 1994. The Reverend Bonnie L. Loudner joined the staff as children's choir director and Associate Pastor.

A need for a new sanctuary had been discussed for several years. But there was no agreement about enlarging the current sanctuary or constructing an addition to the building. Two years later, in February, 1996, the Normandy Church Conference convened and the congregation voted to build a new sanctuary with a 375-seat capacity and to renovate the old sanctuary into a fellowship hall. The congregation had always intended to convert the octagonal sanctuary into a fellowship hall as membership grew.

The selected architects, Brightman and Mitchell, designed a large sanctuary to adjoin the building on the west end where the three-car garage had been, parallel to the main section of the original mansion. A large tower resembling the one in the original building was the focal point of this new structure. The new larger tower held technical equipment for sound and video use. The outer walls of the new sanctuary carried out the same stucco and stone finish as that of the original building. A long hallway connected the narthex in the new part to the older part of the church. Also, a sound system was enclosed in the main sanctuary. Electrical connections were installed for dual video use with microphones hung from the high ceilings. The old mansion was preserved with little damage to the walls.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION, PHOTO: LUANN EDINGTON

Geranium gardeners beautify the grounds on May 10, 2000. (Back row, l.-r.) Jim Treffinger, Carl Schafer, Lowell Stebbins, (front, l.-r.) Jo Treffinger, Georgia Reed, Jane Kinghorn, Laverne Stebbins, Janet Black, Marti Sheley and Winnie Risner.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Stucco and stone were added to the facade to match the mansion's surfaces.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Barb Graeff in front of the new sanctuary.

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The narthex just inside the vestibule allowed for congregation gatherings, ample restrooms, and a coatroom. Groundbreaking took place March 24, 1996, as Bill Straughen, chairman of the building committee, and his wife Peggy turned over the first shovels full of dirt. *(See color photo on page 111.)*

The construction of the building drew considerable interest from passing traffic as well as parishioners. Reverend Frazer could be seen in his "hard hat" checking the progress on the new sanctuary. Miller-Valentine Special Projects, Ltd., was the general contractor for the new sanctuary.

Bishop Judith Craig consecrated the new sanctuary on January 12, 1997. H. Thomas Wilson, Superintendent of the United Methodist Dayton South District was also present.

Because of the improved facilities, ambitious musical productions with religious themes were now possible. Many in the congregation felt the call to the theater in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *The Sound of Music,* both directed by Darin Jolliffe-Haas, the choir director. Later the choir presented *Godspell* with church members making all costumes and scenery. Carolyn Bendrick, a talented musician, provided organ and piano music for the new sanctuary. When Darin Jolliffe-Haas resigned, Rick Lewis took over the main choir and bell choir.

In 1999, Diana Hanauer, Luann Eddington and Terry Hanauer represented Normandy Church on a mission to Alaska, which encouraged others to try mission involvement. Mike Cornelius and Jon Kinghorn went on a mission to Nicaragua in 2000, and a Costa Rica mission was a success in 2001 when Jane and Jon Kinghorn with Rebecca Loudner and Joanna Miller went as a group.

In July 2000, Reverend Frazer retired and The Reverend Bonnie L. Loudner joined the professional staff at Centerville United Methodist Church on East Franklin Street. This left an opening for two pastors at Normandy Church. In July 2000, the Reverend Tom Harry and the Reverend Jan Harry were appointed to Normandy as Co-Pastors. Normandy United Methodist Church welcomed the leadership of this clergy couple.

The members of Normandy United Methodist Church use their lovely church setting to inspire and to enhance their activities. The Richard Grant family would be pleased with the tremendous success of the church and the community esteem which this church commands.

* * *



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Co-pastors Tom and Jan Harry, 2001



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Baby shower for Aye Aye Mu and her husband, Youth Pastor Hai Vung Lian

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Normandy Church's Pastors, 1955-2001

Normandy Evangelical United Brethren Church, 1955-1968 & Normandy United Methodist Church 1968-2001

Senior Pastor (Spouse)		Associate Pastor (Spouse)
The Rev. Milford E. Ater (Mildred)	1955-1974	The Rev. Harvey Smith (Carolyn)
		The Rev. David Trout (Pat)
The Rev. Glenn E. Copeland (Sarah)	1975-1981	The Rev. David Trout (Pat)
		The Rev. Phil Conley (Sally)
		The Rev. Joseph C. Beavon (Jenny)
The Rev. A. Donald Collins (Mary)	1981-1989	The Rev. Joseph C. Beavon (Jenny)
		The Rev. Michael W. Donnally (Becca)
The Rev. Charles E. Titko (Doris)	1989-1991	The Rev. Ronald A. Hoeksema (Michele)
		The Rev. Phyllis H. Scholp (Al)
		The Rev. Thomas Maxedon, Jr.
The Rev. Gail D. Rohrbacker (Rich)	1991-1994	The Rev. Kim Vogler
		The Rev. Bonnie L. Loudner (David)
The Rev. David F. Frazer (Mary Jo)	1994-2000	The Rev. Bonnie L. Loudner (David)
Co-pastors, The Rev. Tom Harry and The Rev. Jan Harry	2000-2000	Youth Pastor, The Rev. Hai Vung Lian (Aye Aye Mu)

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The New Sanctuary at Normandy United Methodist Church consecrated 1997



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION





BOTTOM LEFT 4 PHOTOS: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Congregation in the new sanctuary





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Troop 316 at Normandy

Since 1957, Troop 316 of the Boy Scouts of America has had its home in the basement of Normandy Church. Hundreds of boys have enjoyed scouting at Normandy with nearly a hundred achieving Eagle Scout status. There have also been, at various times, Explorer Posts meeting at Normandy. During the early years of the church and troop, the swimming pool was used for training swimming and lifesaving to the scouts. Many picnics, and cookouts were held in the old back yard of the Grant estate. *(See color photo on page 112.)*

In 1960s the scouts built a wooden-framed, canvas-covered canoe in one of the three garages near the servants quarters. Several boys achieved their God and Country awards while learning more about their faith under the tutelage of the pastors of Normandy Church.

The Eagle Scouts of Troop 316 as of 2000
Chartered 1954

Reginald T. Ryan	1957	David Sherwood	1976	Matthew T. Tyler	1988
Kent Zimmerman	1959	Dale Lewis	1976	Ronald W. Marx	1988
James Martin	1960	Steve Burgin	1977	Guy W. Manaugh	1988
Thomas Kutei	1961	Kurt Schewier	1977	Brian P. Salata	1988
Scott Bradly	1962	David Smith	1977	Jim Taller	1989
John McIver	1963	Tim Fondy	1978	David Zotter	1989
Thomas Hines	1964	David Knieriem	1978	Brian Chandler	1990
Robert McIver	1964	Joe Mayer	1978	Jeff Chapin	1990
Robert McIntyre	1966	John Osborn	1978	Matthew Cleary	1990
Gary Clemenz	1967	Donald Ross	1978	Jon Servaites	1991
Ronald Reddick	1967	Todd Seifferth	1978	Brian Elleman	1991
Edwin Cook	1968	Leonard Zimmerman	1978	Douglas Gill	1991
William Jaminson	1968	Grant Miller	1978	Dennis Cleary	1992
Vincent Winterland	1969	Mike Vagades	1978	Andrew Heller	1992
Robert Bowman	1970	Chris Knor	1979	John Carlson	1992
Eric Sellers	1972	Mark Tidwell	1979	William Jamison IV	1992
Jim Webster	1972	Doug Tidwell	1980	Matthew Zotter	1992
Michael C. Yag	1973	Casper Bellar	1980	Joseph Heller	1993
Craig Jonson	1973	Jeffery Anderson	1980	Rick Huddleston	1993
George Jonson	1973	David Kreutz	1980	Michael Sopronyi	1993
Jeff Overly	1973	Mark Buckley	1982	Kevin Englebrecht	1993
Mike Overly	1973	John Numbers	1982	Darryl Adams	1993
Rick Sherwood	1973	Mike Taller	1982	Peter Jenkins	1993
Danny Royer	1974	David E. Bethel	1984	Todd Sparks	1993
Dick Ewing	1975	Bradley M. Harrold	1984	Derek Kuykendall	1993
Jim Hadley	1975	James W. Smack	1984	Robert Kiefaber	1994
Allyn Hill	1975	P. Christian Nordstrom	1984	Brian Reistenberg	1994
Eric Miller	1975	Andrew C. Baker	1984	Andy Roberts	1995
Jim Zengel	1975	Timothy J. Cleary	1985	Daniel Huber	1995
William Zelibor	1976	David Kehm	1985	Jay Sharritt	1995
Jeff Bell	1976	Clinton S. Dameron	1987	Andrew Jenkins	1999

Names copied from the engraved plaque in the scouts' meeting room in basement of Normandy Church.

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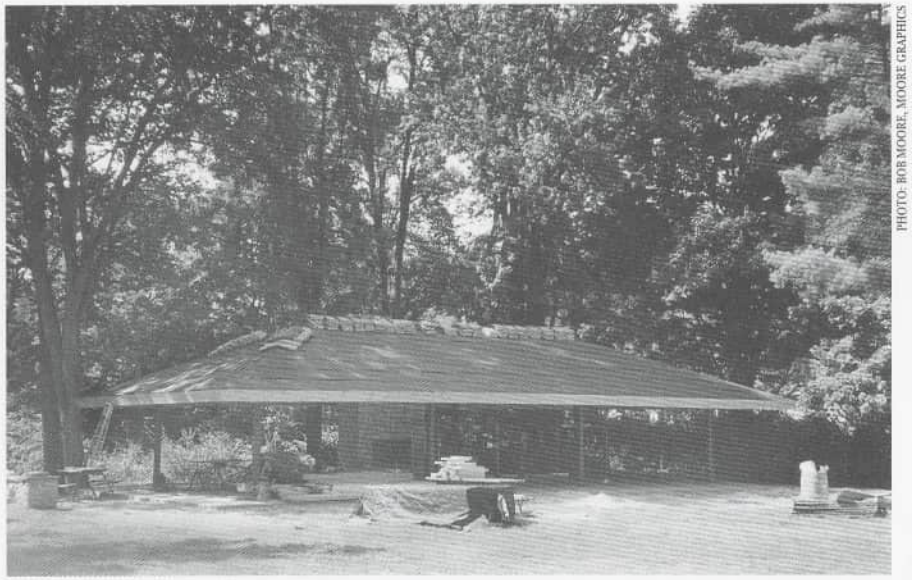


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

As this book went to press in 2002, Normandy United Methodist Church had recently erected a new picnic shelter to the west of the pool area on the south lawn. In a moment of inspiration the stone mason fabricated a cross in the center over the fireplace which was constructed of natural stone matching the stone on the bottom floor of the mansion.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

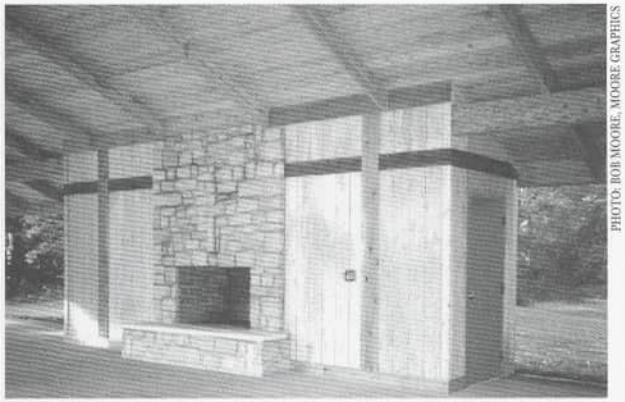


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

General Contractor, Wilcon Corporation, Jeff King, Vice President
John Roll & Associates, Architect
Scott Keller, Project Manager
Stan Hester, Stone Mason

SEE ADDITIONAL COLOR PHOTOS IN THE COLOR CENTER SECTION.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The Main Bridge crossing Holes Creek into Grant Park was renovated in 1999 to enable wheelchair and stroller access.

"I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."

— John Muir

Grant Park

1967

PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

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Grant Park

The Grant Park Acquisition

Grant Park, a 187-acre nature sanctuary, owned by the Centerville-Washington Park District, is located in the heart of the Washington Township and Centerville community. It was previously a portion of the country estate, located in then rural Washington Township, that Richard H. Grant formed by acquiring six separate farms totaling approximately 780 acres, thereby creating Normandy Farms.

A letter to the editor of *The Centerville-Bellbrook Times* on May 30, 1972, described the Normandy Farms area as follows: "Holes Creek, which drains half of Washington Township into the Great Miami River (Sugar Creek drains the other half into the Little Miami River) made a large horseshoe bend through the original Normandy Farms. Its course ran a mile and a half through the farm property, cascading over rock outcroppings and through quiet pools. Bordering slopes were tree covered and deep gullies meandered back into the hillsides. Although most of the farm was in cultivation or pastureland, the wooded areas were allowed to grow wild. As a result, a major portion of the land along Holes Creek and much of the rough land within the horseshoe, remained a dense woodland filled with undisturbed natural growth."

Grant Park exists today because in the early 1950s a handful of new Washington Township residents, determined to build a superior community, incorporated abundant open space, parks and natural areas from what was essentially about 30 square miles of woods, ravines and cultivated farmland. (This excluded the built-up village of Centerville which occupied approximately one square mile in the center of the township.)

Extraordinary leadership, cooperation and support of dedicated citizens, landowners, subdivision designers and governmental agencies at many levels resulted in the preservation of this unique specimen of natural beauty. Bill Yeck, founding chairman and chief architect of the Park District, the primary planner and motivator of the open space effort tells the story:



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

1987

"The time was right in the early 1950s. Even then the country was beginning to be concerned with unrestricted sprawl, and the township people were ready to support new concepts of development to preserve a beautiful community. Our first step in 1953 was to adopt the county zoning program for the township. After serving as promotion chairman of the successful campaign, and learning a little about local government, I investigated at the state level the possibilities of saving open space through a township park district. Later I found myself chairman of a committee to create a new open space zoning law for Washington Township. I was given the job of writing this innovative document.

"This gave me the chance to include a provision that required a park in each square mile of Washington Township. The new open-space zoning law was approved by the voters in 1957. But we needed some agency to acquire and operate parkland so we set up a citizen planning committee, which recommended a township park district. The Activity Center membership circulated the necessary petitions and the township trustees put it on the ballot.

"I was asked to be promotion chairman again. The residents approved the Park District, and I found myself on the Park Board along with Charlie Burkhart and Jim Boyle. So, in 1959 we had a Park District, but no money and of course, no parks and no staff. I had some planning and writing experience so I got to be the planner. Right away we approved a Master Plan Map showing the approximate location of the future parks called for in the zoning law. The Park Board called

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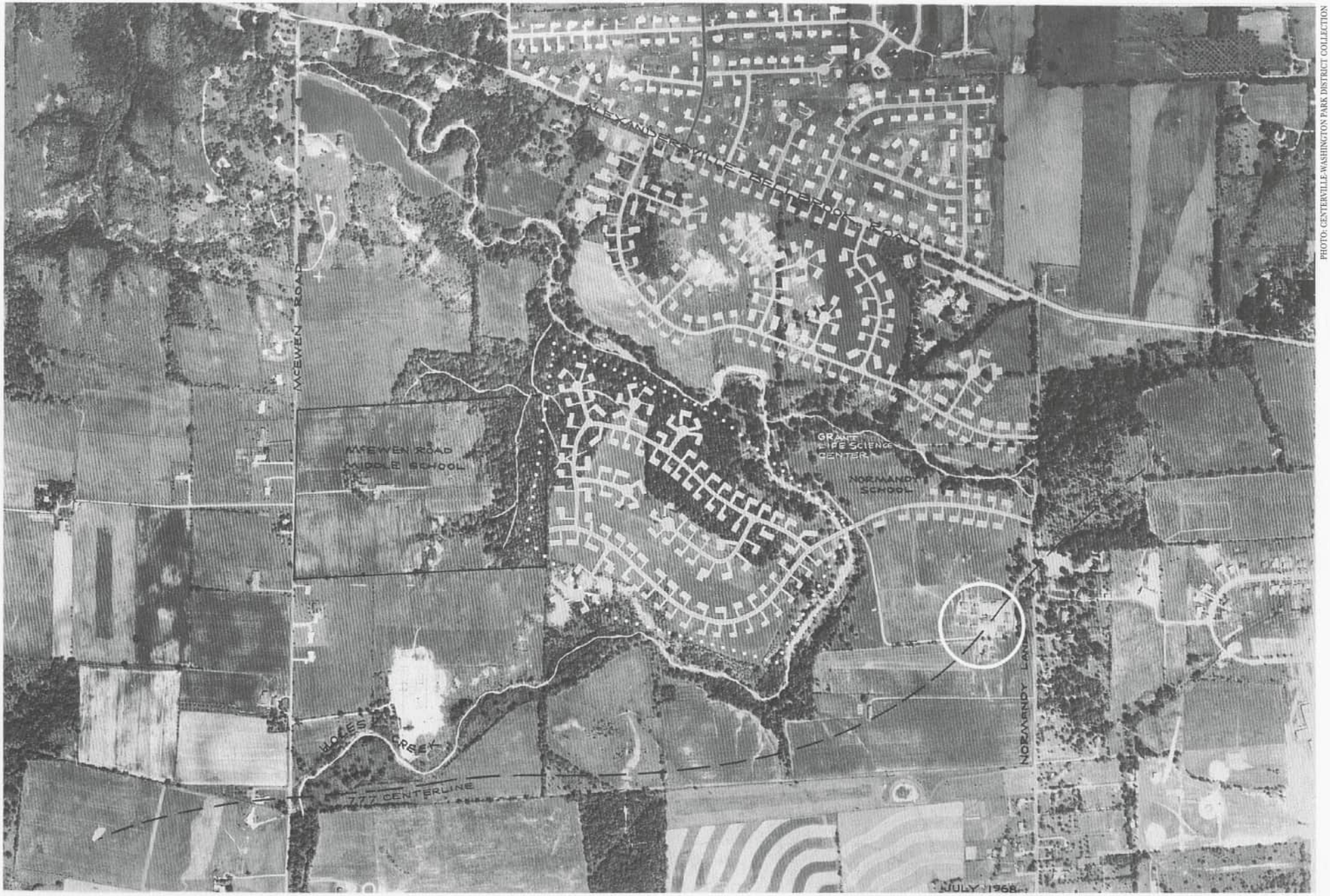


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Proposed development map from July 1968 shows planned plat development over what is now preserved as Grant Park, Centerville-Washington Park District. The white circle surrounds the site of the former Normandy Farm operation. The white dotted line polygon surrounds the area of houses which were never constructed. The dashed line going through the center of the Farm complex is the future site of I-675 which was known as 777 at that time. ***(See page 89.)***

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a meeting of community leaders in 1960, and set up an Open Space Committee and introduced the new Density Zoning or Open Space Transfer concept, which had been tried in the East, but was new in Ohio. Washington Township and Centerville officials liked the idea of setting aside land for parks in most developments and put it in their zoning laws.

"The Master Plan, which showed 32 park locations, was fundamental to the success of the Park District, and the Open Space Transfer idea produced considerable acreage for parks in Centerville and Washington Township. In the early 1960s our plans and concepts were only ideas, but in September of 1960 we had already asked the Concept Development Company to reserve land for a park as shown on our Master Plan. Concept Park became our first 'Open Space Transfer' park.

"The Master Plan also called for a park in the Normandy Farms area. So when development approached soon after, the plan had already been accepted as a guide for preserving open space."

The Normandy Farms area had been zoned for two-acre lots, but when an attempt was made to develop smaller lots, the courts ordered the Washington Township Trustees and the Grant Estate to reach an agreement on a development plan. The compromise plan, proposed early in 1963, set aside 47 acres for a "nature walk" along the big horseshoe of Holes Creek. The terms of the settlement offered the "nature walk" to Washington Township, which then assigned its rights to the Centerville-Washington Park District in December of 1963.

On November 11, 1963, the park commissioners agreed to ask the Grant family for permission to name the park Richard H. Grant Park. On December 18, 1963, the Park District received a letter from Richard Grant, Jr. stating, "...as spokesman for the Family, I can safely say that everyone will feel that naming the park area after Father will be considered as a fine memorial." By 1972 the park had grown to 56.8 acres as a result of open space transfer from the Grant Estate and the purchase of the Grant's Trail neighborhood park area utilizing federal assistance.

At that time Grant Park consisted of a ribbon of green space along the horseshoe bend of Holes Creek. The Park District determined that the forest and field areas within the horseshoe should be added to the park in order to preserve the entire significant, unique and beautiful natural area for posterity.

In 1966, the Park Board asked the Open Space Committee of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission to make a study of the area to support its objective with an expert opinion. The study, spearheaded by Ralph D. Scott, concluded, "that the total area, including the two fields and woodlands, be acquired by the



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Holes Creek cascades over the shelves of limestone rock at this secluded spot in the park.

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Washington Township Park District for preservation, at all costs. There are truly unique elements within the total complex that are rare in the county, some being (to our knowledge) nonexistent." The report also suggested acquiring the adjacent agricultural land to the south, for a 200-500 foot strip buffer zone. That same year, the local citizens' Park Council, established by the Park Board, made an independent recommendation for preserving six parcels of land adjacent to Grant Park.

The Park District also wanted to preserve this property for the benefit of the Life Science Center program conducted by Centerville Schools in buildings donated by the Grant Estate. Also through the generosity of the Grant family, this school program utilized the wooded Grant land in addition to the floodplain for their studies. If development prevailed, everything but the floodplain would be lost.

The Park District now had the expert recommendation, educational need, and citizen support, but the required dollar value was equivalent to five or six times the district's annual income. Consequently, the Park District placed an additional one-mill levy on the ballot in 1966 to provide funds to help acquire lands at Grant Park and for other park purposes. The levy was defeated and the future of the expanded park looked dim.

However, about this time Bill Yeck became chairman of the Neighborhood Parks Section of the Regional Planning Commission and along with Dick Bryant, director of the Montgomery County Recreation Department, spearheaded a plan to include a neighborhood parks program as a part of a new Children's Services Levy. The Park District Master Plan was used as a prototype for the county plan for neighborhood parks throughout all of Montgomery County. The passage of this levy in 1968 created funds for the acquisition of parks in the Centerville-Washington Park District as well as elsewhere in the county.

Actually, by this time the Park Board had obtained a development plan that showed the location of over 100 residential lots filling up the entire beautiful area within the horseshoe. (See aerial photograph with developments shown in white on page 73.) Development had not proceeded because there was no access without building a roadway bridge across Holes Creek.

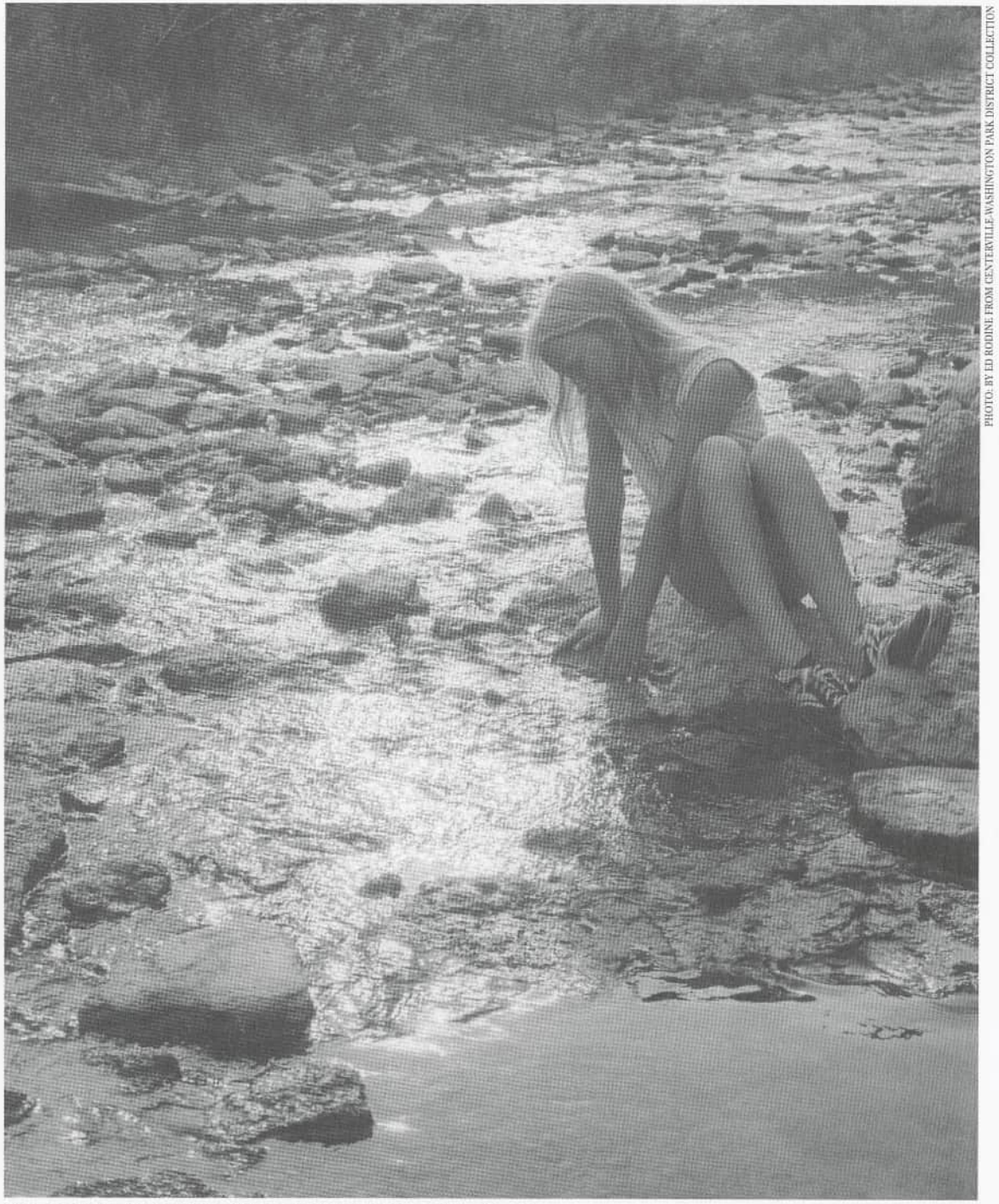


PHOTO: BY ED RODINE FROM CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

A meandering stream provides a restful spot for quiet reflection.

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With this knowledge the Park Board took immediate steps toward acquisition which would allow the preservation of a true nature preserve, rather than a narrow strip of creek between the back yards of houses, before development could happen.

The Park District selected the horseshoe area of Grant Park as its number one priority for Children's Services Levy funds and obtained endorsements from the Washington Township Trustees, the City of Centerville, and the Centerville Schools when submitting to Montgomery County for approval. County and federal funds were used to purchase the 44-acre central woodland parcel and the 50-acre central fields meadow agricultural area within the horseshoe.

But even that acquisition did not satisfy the aggressive Park Board. Board members wanted to connect the park to McEwen Road on the west. By 1974, a 12-acre open-space-transfer acquisition resulted in a 1/3-mile Holes Creek westward extension completing the McEwen Road connection.

However, the historic Clark French farmhouse site on the south was in danger of development. The Park Board negotiated a zoning plan with the developer and the Township Trustees which added 13 acres of nature and the French farm area to the park.

But Grant Park still needed a major frontage access at McEwen Road. The Park District purchased the historical 1880s barn from the Township Trustees, but the Trustees also owned the four additional acres at that location fronting on McEwen Road. The Park District owned approximately the same amount of land adjacent to the Township Recreation Center, fronting on Miamisburg-Centerville Road. The two parties agreed to a swap, but the State of Ohio said the law did not allow such a swap. The Park Board went to Bob Corbin, state representative, who got the law changed, and the important frontage was acquired for the park, and the Recreation Center received the land it needed.

By this time the Board of Education had agreed to a 90-year lease of an acre of land to provide an entrance directly into the park from Normandy Ridge Road.

Grant Park began as a narrow, 47-acre, streamside "nature walk" in the floodplain. Thanks to the foresight, planning and determination of the Park Board, with the cooperation of other governmental bodies, engineers and developers, and through citizen support the vision changed. After the acquisition of 15 different parcels—over a period of 29 years—the park is now 187 acres of woods, meadows, prairie, wetland and creek habitats and historic sites, forever preserved for generations to explore and enjoy. *(See Park Acquisition map on Page 108.)*

Former Farm Life Remnants

The area now known as Grant Park once had three successful farm operations – Normandy Lane, McEwen Road, and the Reynolds' Farm on Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road. Normandy Farms had a successful Jersey dairy business and raised registered Belgian horses, Hereford cattle, hogs, sheep and chickens. Many reminders of the past farm life can still be found scattered throughout the park.

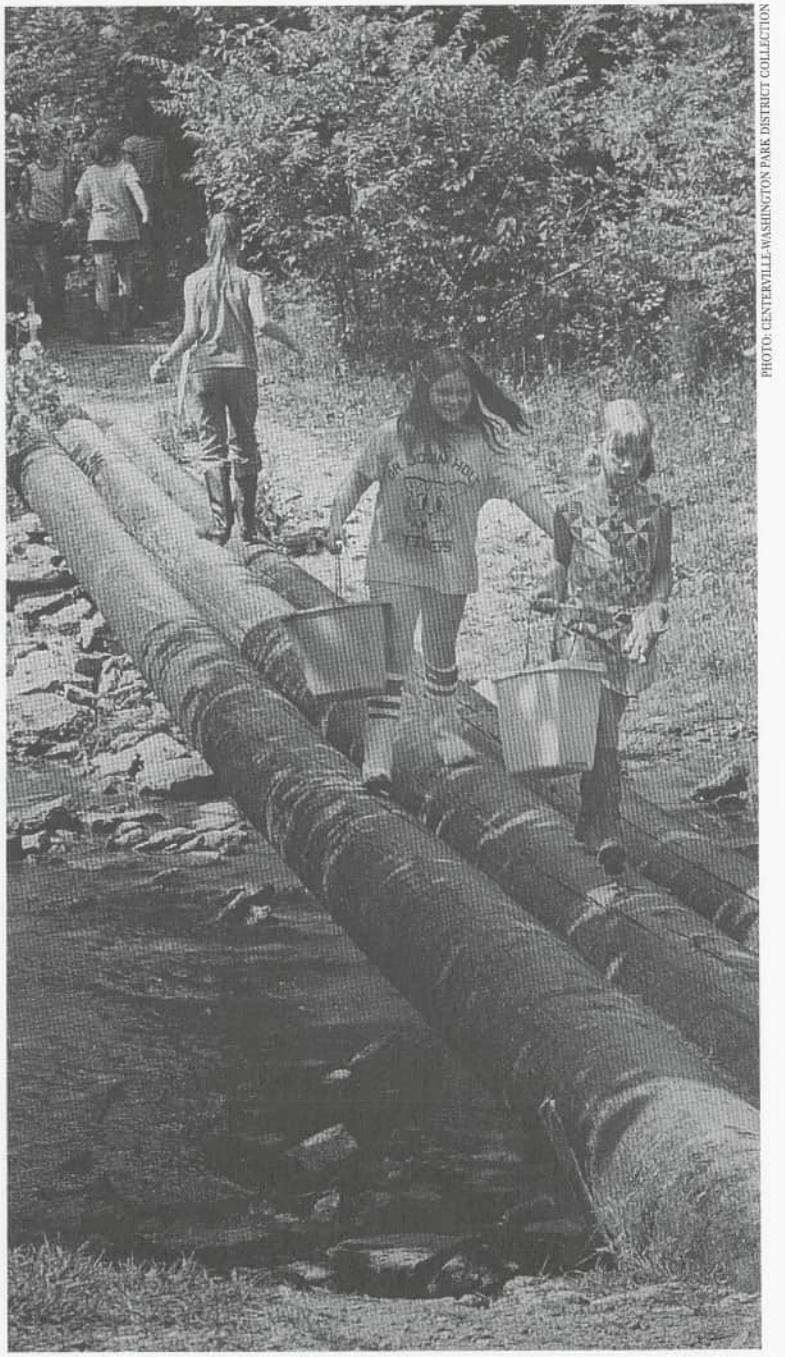


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The first main bridge over Holes Creek in Grant Park consisted of three huge logs, providing a challenge for all who entered.

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Old Farm and Silo

The Clark French farm, located just north of Interstate 675, was accessed from a farm lane that came out onto State Route 725 near the current Congress Park Drive. The French's farm consisted of a field across the creek and up the hill (later where turkey farming was done by Richard Grant), and fields east and west of the house. The farmhouse and silo foundations are still visible in the park today. Mrs. Florence Reynolds purchased the farm from Clark French, and then later sold to the Grants. A fire, set by vandals at Christmas time in the late 1920s, destroyed the vacant house.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The Grant Barn at McEwen Road was once two barns. The north section (right) was moved to this location, attaching to the older south section. Hand hewn beams and wooden pegs are still visible inside.

McEwen Road Barn

The historic Victorian-style and unique *T-barn* was once actually two separate barns. The older south section was constructed in the late 1800s. The north section came from the William Greist farm, located across Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road from the Reynolds Farm, near Durban Road. Sometime in the early 1930s, Grant hired Chester and Lloyd Hibberd to take the barn apart, mark all the pieces, and put it back together, adjoining the original barn on McEwen Road. The barn still has some of the original hand-hewn



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The Clark French Farm Foundation, February, 2001.

posts, beams, and wooden pegs that were used for barn construction at that time. This barn was used by the Grants for beef cattle and later for working on cars. There was also a double house for farm hands built close to McEwen Road that the Grants took down in the early 1960s to keep it from being vandalized. The sidewalk to the house is still visible near the road.

Reynolds Cabin

The lone chimney is all that remains of the cabin built by the Reynolds overlooking Holes Creek. It was located just downstream from the bridge that connected the main farm lane from Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road to the rest of the farm. The bridge had 3 cement support posts, with a wooden plank floor and wood railing along the sides. One year, high water broke one of the cement supports and the entire bridge collapsed into the creek.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The lone chimney of the Reynolds' cabin still stands close to Holes Creek.

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Reynolds' Foundation

Mrs. Reynolds started to build a house up on the hill within the horseshoe, but decided it was too far from the highway (Alex-Bell Road). This house was never completed, but instead the Reynolds built at 732 Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road (Skywood). The basement foundation of the abandoned house project is still visible today in the park.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Reynolds' Basement Foundation, found in the mature woods, was never completed as a house since Mrs. Reynolds felt it was too far from the "highway" (Alex-Bell Rd.).

The Chimneys

The Grants had visited the Reynolds at their cabin in the woods and Grant liked it so much he had one built for his family along the creek. This picnic cabin was worth $20,000 when built, with rather elaborate furnishings, and included a screened-in porch overlooking Holes Creek. The cabin was utilized by the Grants and their friends for picnics, softball games and badminton matches. It burned in the late 1960s when vandals set a fire in the kitchen sink. The two stone fireplaces and chimneys still stand as a reminder of another era.

Trap Shoot

The sunken cement room still visible just off the trail across the creek from the Grant Nature Center was once used as a trap shoot by Richard Grant and his friends. Remnants of a storage shed and fencing with a gate are also visible in the woods behind the trap shoot.

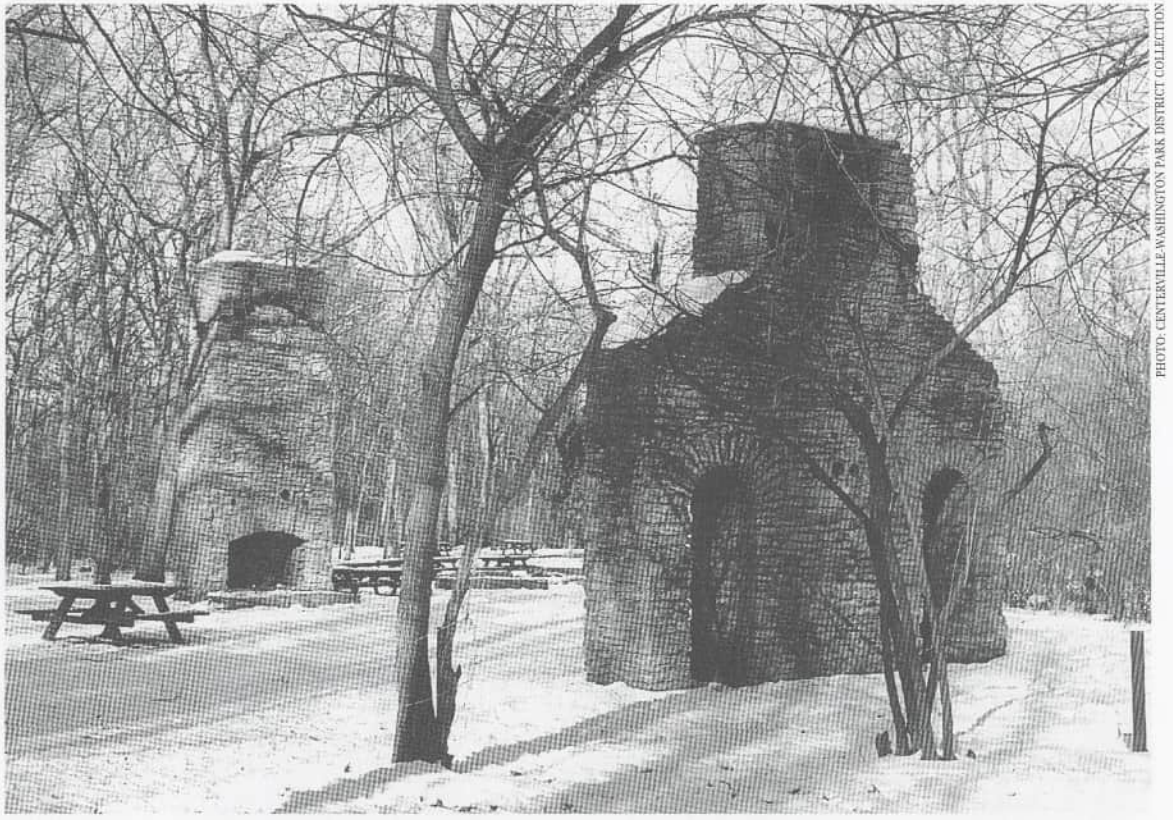


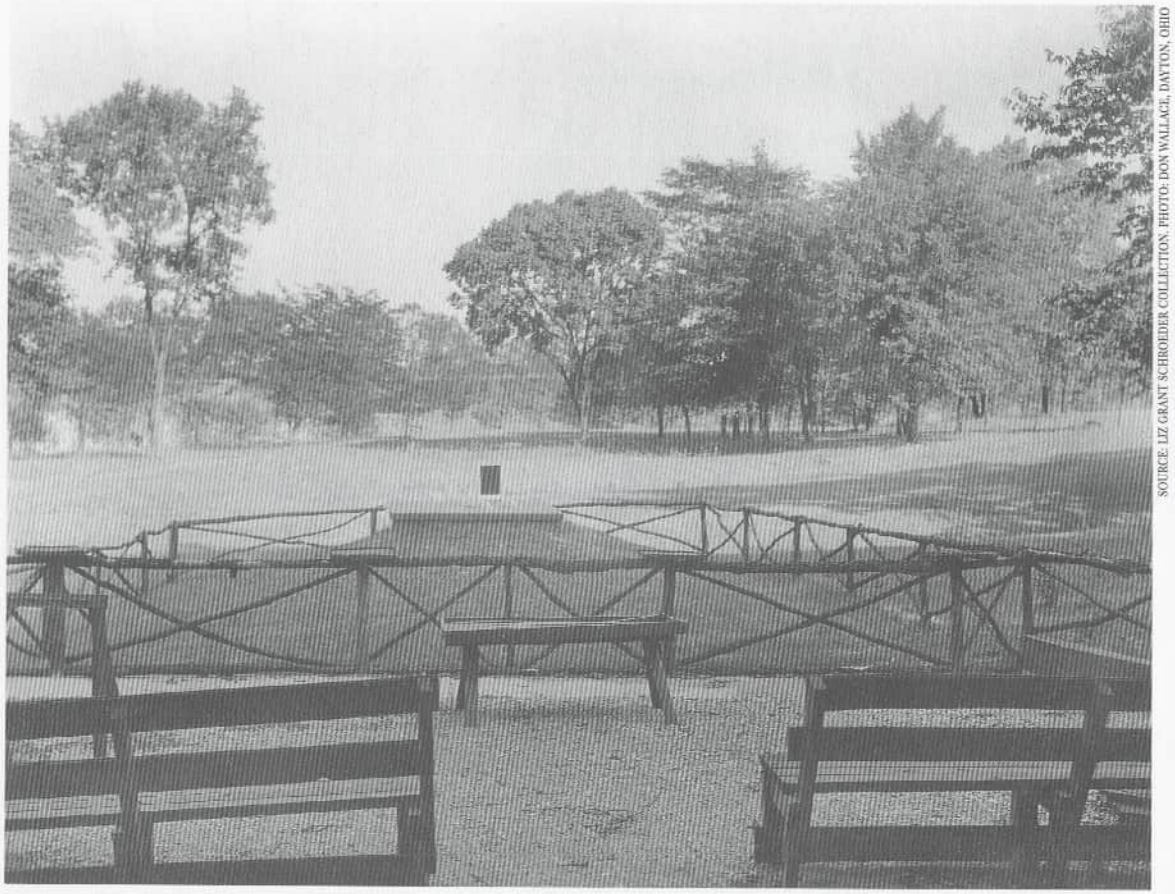
PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The chimneys are all that remains of the Grants' picnic cabin. Vandals burned the cabin in the late 1960s and all was lost when the fire trucks could not make it across the creek in time.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

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SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION. PHOTO: DON WALLACE, DAYTON, OHIO

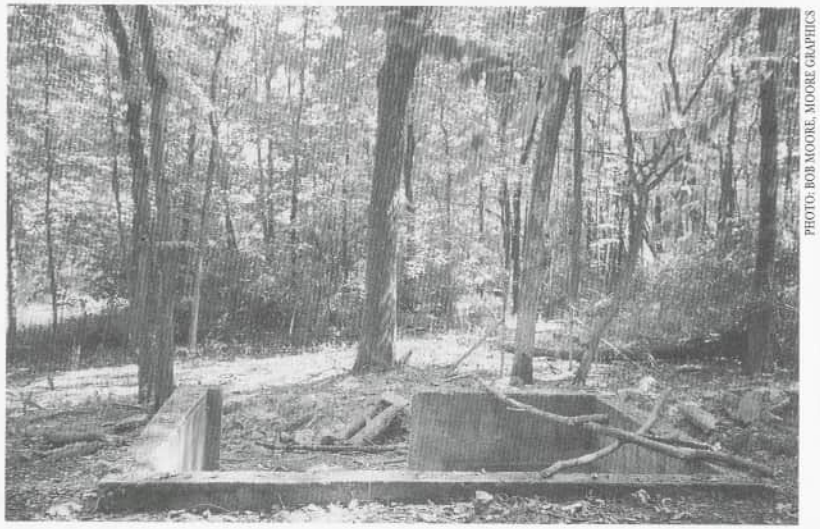


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

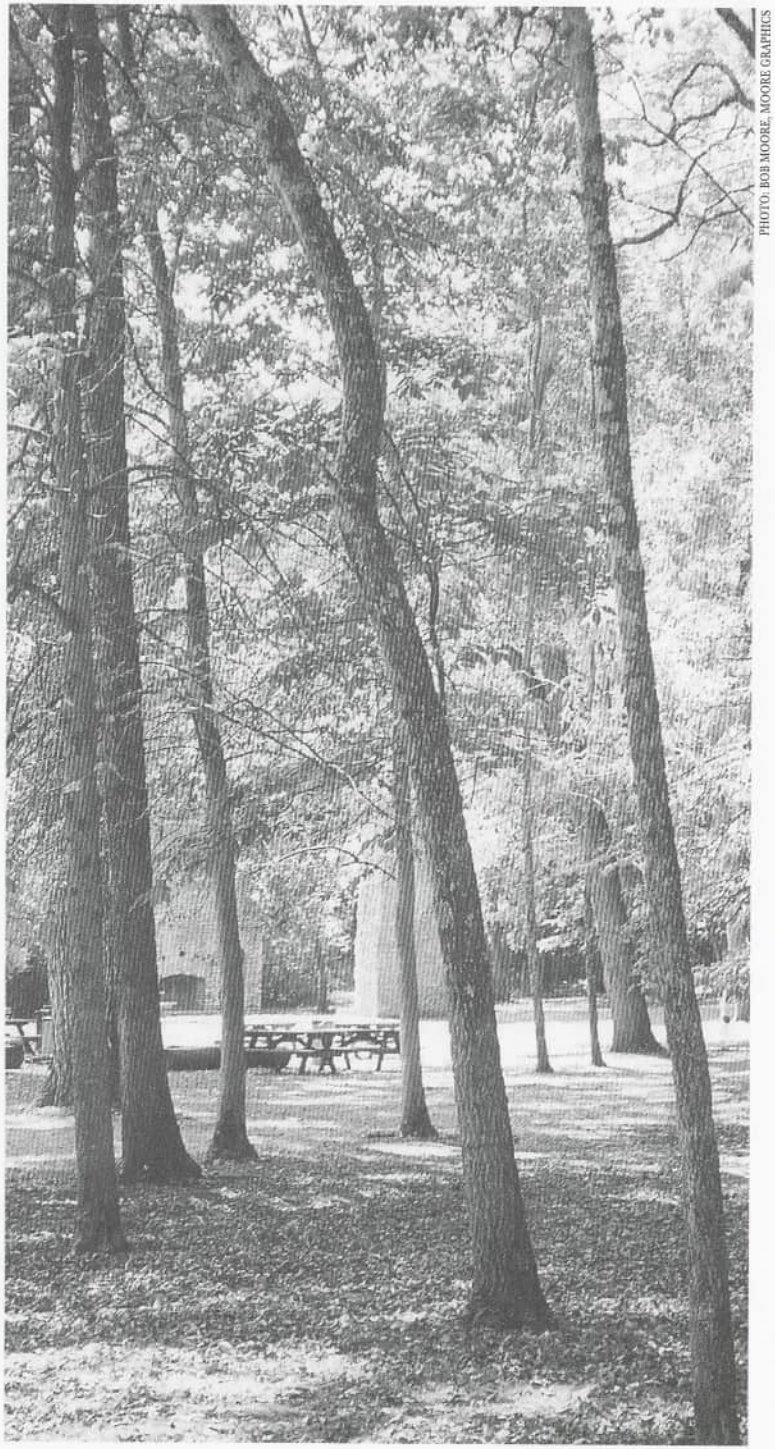


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

(Left) Winter 2000, the trapshoot once provided hours of entertainment for Richard Grant and his friends.

(Above) In 1930, when the trapshoot was active the trees were few and far between.

(Right) Remnants of a storage shed for sports equipment located in the woods behind the trapshoot at Grant Park, Summer 2002.

(Far right) The chimneys picnic area in summer 2002, marks the spot where the Grant family cabin stood until the late 1960s.

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PHOTO: CELIA ELLIOTT

In the distance, the Grants' cabin in the woods served as a weekend retreat for hunting and picnics in the '30s through the '60s.

A Haven of Unique Flora & Fauna

Grant Park preserves a unique blend of natural areas and wildlife, given its suburban location. There are woods, meadows, creek, prairie and wetland habitats, all within close hiking distance for exploration.

The woods are primarily comprised of oak, hickory and sugar maple trees. Non-dominant species include ash, beech, walnut, sycamore and tulip trees. This combination is typical for what early settlers to Centerville would have found; however, since much of Montgomery County has been logged or developed, this forest type is a rare find today. The forest floor supports many species of wildflowers, and the ravines that run through the park have some species that are rare in the county. Jack-in-the-pulpit, wild ginger, several species of trillium, and five species of ferns thrive in many locations throughout the park. Shrub species found in the park include flowering dogwood, sassafras, hydrangea, spicebush, and a lovely grove of pawpaw. The woods are travelled by many species of songbirds, both as residents and migrants. Red-tailed and Cooper's hawks hunt in the meadows, and screech and great horned owls nest in the mature woods. Squirrels and chipmunks are evident during the day, and the lucky hiker may even be treated to sighting a deer, red fox, coyote, raccoon, opossum or beaver.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Grant Park hillside in winter provides a challenging climb in the heavy snows.

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A four-acre prairie was planted in 1989 with help from Jenny Hines' Watts Middle School students. The area was prepared for seeding, seed was collected at the Aullwood Audubon Center in Dayton, and students planted the entire area. The Park District cared for the area with frequent mowing, additional plantings and a controlled burn each spring to deplete unwanted species and add nutrients to the soil. Seven years after the initial planting, the prairie finally blossomed into a sea of tall grasses and showy flowers. Species that can be found there today include big and little bluestem, Indian grass, prairie and purple coneflower, compass plant, prairie dock, rattlesnake master, goats beard, and many species of sunflower and aster.

The old farm fields have been left to revert to meadows. These areas provide a safe haven for wildlife, and add to the diversity of animals found in the park. The meadows are mowed once each year to keep the woody growth down, inhibiting forest succession. In late summer, brilliant colors are scattered over the landscape with the many varieties of goldenrod and aster. Edge areas provided by meadows are excellent for bird watching and for hunting by resident animals.

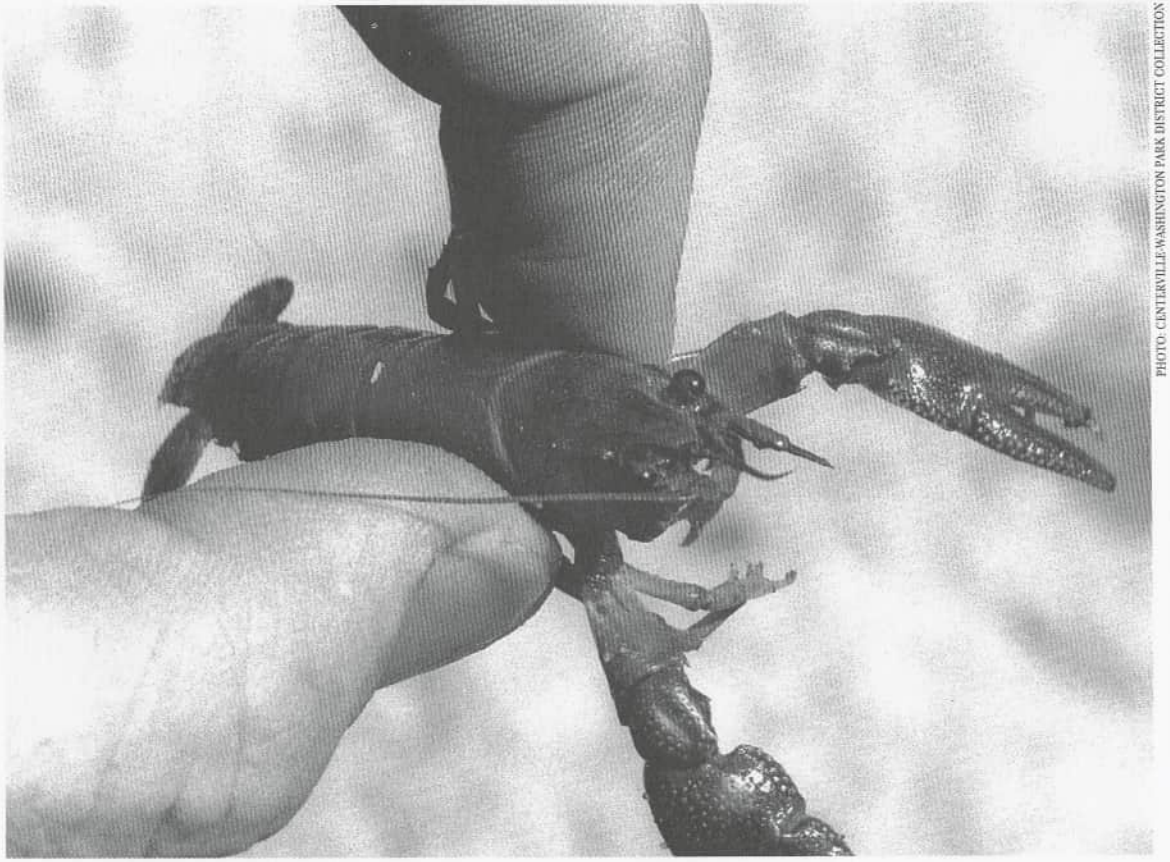


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Crawdad or crayfish is a favorite "catch" of Grant Park creek explorers.

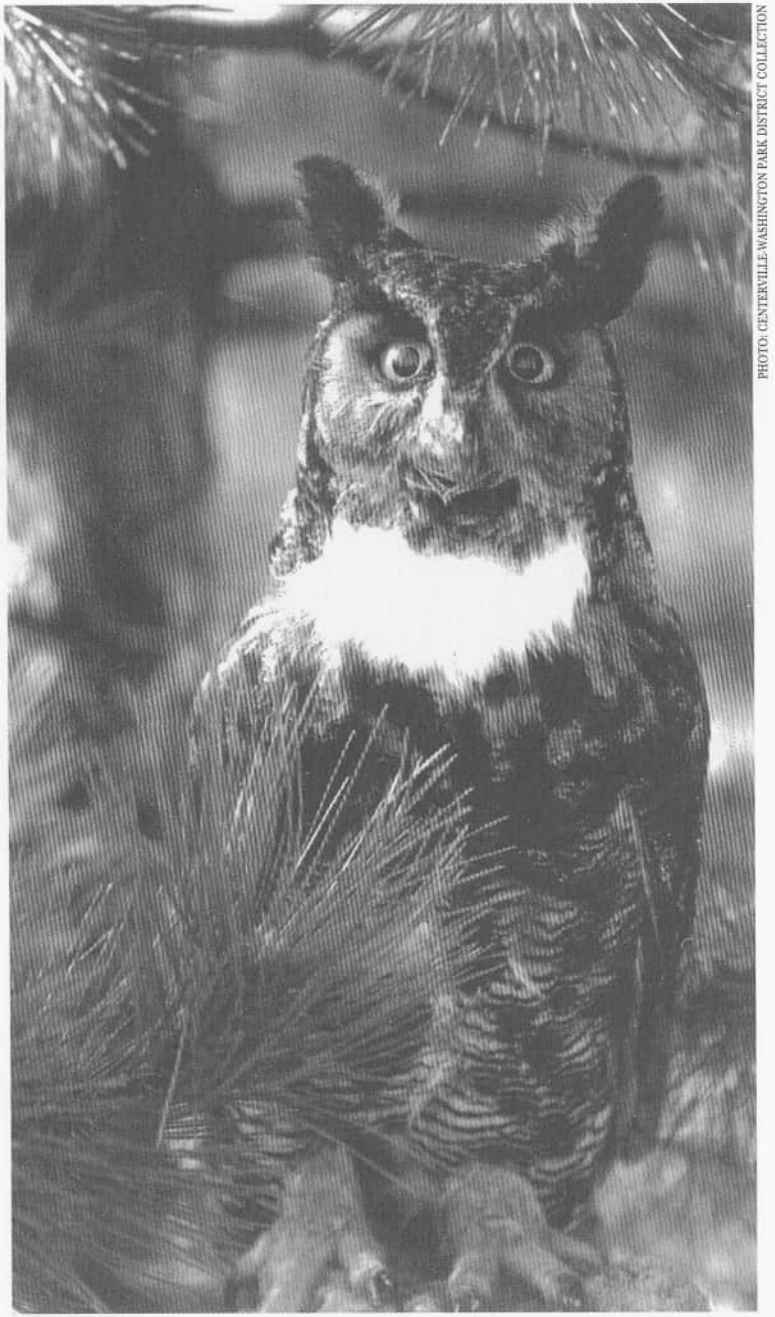


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The great horned owl is a resident in the mature woods of Grant Park. Although it is nocturnal (sleeps during the day), noisy calls of crows often give away its resting spot as they attempt to chase it out of their territory.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Grant Park, 1995, additional sunlight and extra nutrients left behind after a prairie burn improve the growth rate for prairie plants.

VISITOR AMENITIES AT GRANT PARK

Grant Park is designated as a nature park, which means there is little development other than hiking trails, habitat creation and preservation, benches and interpretive or informative signs. The trail system is monitored by park staff, to assure the visitors have adequate access to the unique areas of the park, without destroying the natural beauty.

A bridge across Holes Creek leads to the trails in the main body of the park. What started as a primitive log bridge took on a new form with the help of Gloria Clouse's 4th & 5th grade students from Normandy Elementary School in 1981. The project began in September, 1980, when the students began to study the problems with the log bridge. According to a *Dayton Daily News* article, then 11-year-old Chris Nordstrom said, "The logs were floating with the spring floods. We began a unit which lasted from September to December. The object was to find the best plan for a bridge across Holes Creek." The students researched the water levels in the creek and talked to an architectural firm about bridge designs. They presented two ideas to the Park Board—designs for either a

Holes Creek surrounds the park on three sides, which allows for easy access from many different trail areas. The creek is home to many aquatic insects, fish, ducks, crawdad, and kingfisher with an occasional visit by great blue heron. There is an abundance of fossils from the Ordovician Era found in the creek rock. Generations of students visiting the park have delighted in the discovery of horn coral, brachiopod, and even the rare trilobite, our state fossil.

A wetland was created in 2000 to add to the wildlife and floral diversity of the park. Utilizing dirt on site, an earthen dam was constructed at a low spot of the big meadow. Water drains naturally to this corner, which provides the source needed to establish wetland species. Plants and seeds were added by many school children and volunteers and it has developed into another unique habitat for park visitors to enjoy.

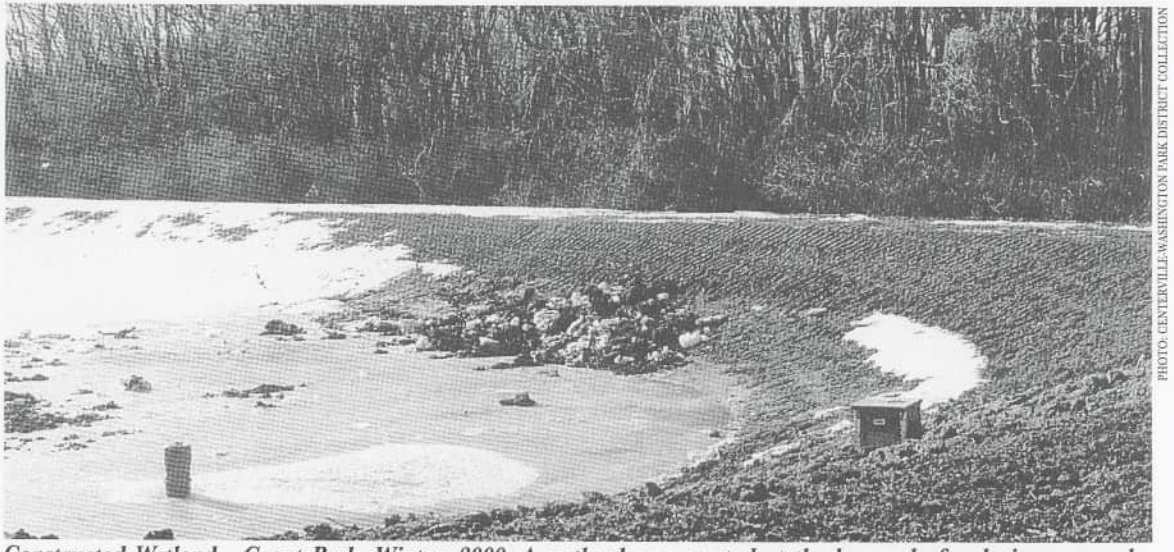


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Constructed Wetland - Grant Park, Winter, 2000. A wetland was created at the low end of a drainage area by constructing a dike to allow water to collect, and support a different variety of plants and animals.

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suspension or truss bridge. Based on their research and a student survey at Normandy Elementary School, the students recommended that the Park District construct a truss bridge. Utilizing their design idea, the Park District worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps to have the new bridge constructed. This bridge continues to be used as the main access into the park. In 2000, the bridge was expanded to cross the predominately-wet area on the other side of the creek, and the flooring was replaced to allow for handicap accessibility. The main structure of the bridge was unaltered – a testimony that the recommendation of the students proved to be successful even years later.

Park District staff maintains many miles of trails throughout the park. Steps are installed on steep or slippery slopes to increase the safety for hikers. Trail markers and information kiosks with maps are located throughout the park to help hikers find their way through the natural areas. A wheelchair/stroller accessible path runs between the main bridge and the "Chimneys" program area.

Grant Park Programs

The Park District developed year-round programming which brings the wonders of Grant Park to people of all ages. Day camps are provided for children in summer and winter months. Public hikes exploring various nature topics are scheduled throughout the year at Grant Park and other nature parks. Monthly programs for preschool through elementary school students have children and their parents involved in learning about the natural world through exploration.

The Grant Nature Center, operated by Centerville City Schools, utilizes the natural areas of Grant Park for nature programming for children in grades 1-6. The Park District and the School District have worked together since the late 1960s to share these valuable resources for the benefit of the Centerville and Washington Township residents. The School District uses the park to enhance their programs, and the Park District uses the Nature Center buildings during non-school hours to house the programs.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Sign at the Normandy School Entrance to Grant Park and Grant Nature Center.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Grant Park is busy most days with families exploring the wonders of nature and the family pet on a leash is always welcome.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Grant Park Trail Head provides updated information about the park and programs, as well as trail maps for first-time visitors.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Trail improvements and informational signs enable hikers to explore the many varied habitats in Grant Park.

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The public utilizes Grant Park on a daily basis, in all four seasons. School and day care groups can be seen throughout the year, exploring the ever-changing natural world. Hikers regularly exercise their dogs in the park, keeping them on a leash as required by park regulations for the safety of all visitors. When winter snows arrive, the hillsides are covered with sled riders; and even cross-country skiers take to the peaceful trails.

Many intergenerational groups and individuals have enjoyed the solitude and beauty provided by this natural gem in the community. This 187-acre nature park will preserve a glimpse into how Washington Township and Centerville looked when the first settlers arrived.

* * *

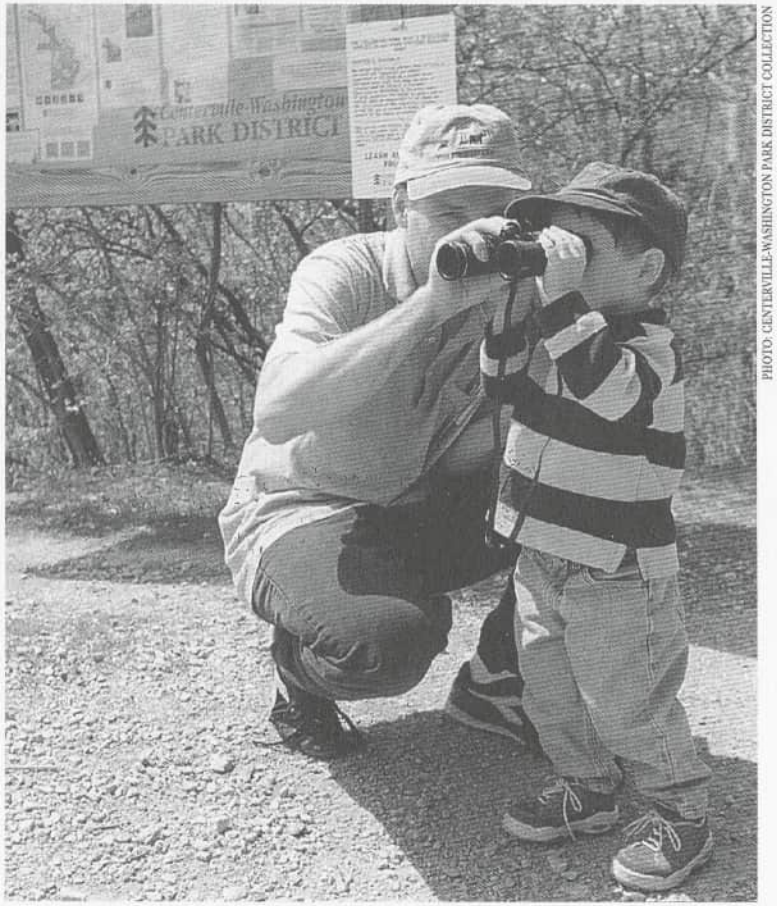


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Families explore nature year-round at the Park District Discovery Walks.

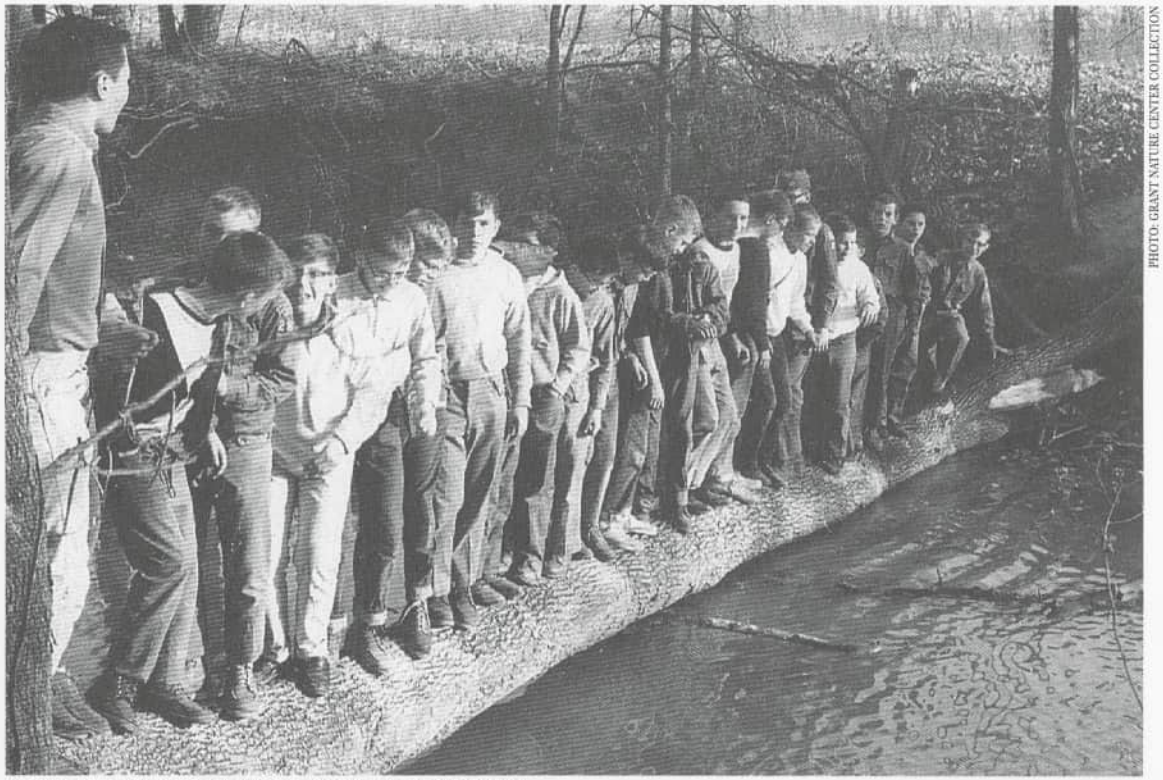


PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Scouts from Centerville Troop 289 in the fall of 1963.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION PHOTOGRAPHER: GERD SCHRICK, 1983

New Bridge, February 1983. Ed Kramer, Park District Naturalist and Grant Nature Center Director, center.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Forest, stream, meadow, prairie and this wetland are all habitats found in Grant Park.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Park District staff prepare for a class in the Cedar Building in 1993.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The old farm lane on the hillside provides an excellent sled hill for winter adventurers.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

School students help plant thousands of wetland plants to establish a new habitat in Grant Park, 2001.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Nature class in the Cedar Building, Winter Woods Day Camp at Grant Nature Center, 1995.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Park District Winter Woods Day Camp training at Grant Nature Center, 1992.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION PHOTOGRAPHER: ED ROBERTS, DAYTON DAILY NEWS

James A. Schneider, former Park District Director shows fossils from the stream to students, Shelly Robinson and Rich Blessing in 1976.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Steve Macklin and the Leafhoppers at Hidden Meadows Day Camp at Grant Nature Center.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Students at the Winter Woodlands Day Camp, 1985.

Opposite: This aerial photo shows the park, approximately 1995. Compare this with the photo on page 73 and the color map on page 109.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Preschool students learn about nature from Bonnie Ott, counselor at camps provided by the Park District.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

1985 Camp kids learn trees' value.

SEE ADDITIONAL COLOR PHOTOS IN THE COLOR CENTER SECTION.

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Grant Nature Center



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Students with handmade binoculars prepare to head out on the trails.

PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

— John Muir

Grant Nature Center, 1970. Gates from the Normandy Farms entrance were used to mark the entrance to the new Grant Life Science Center.

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Grant Nature Center

The history of the Grant Nature Center traces the change in environmental education from residential programs to integrated curriculum programs.

What first inspired Centerville City School Superintendent Hadley Watts to save those four small hog and sheep buildings from Mr. Grant's farm is lost to history. The legacy—that the vision began—lives on as testimony to his foresight.

Hadley Watts saw promise in those old hog furrowing barns at the Grant Farm. (See buildings' previous site on the farm aerial map, page 38) Who could have imagined the rich and life-shaping experiences so many students would have under the roofs of those four dirty buildings? Thankfully, the proposal to move the buildings to the nearby Normandy School site met with nostalgic approval from twenty-three anonymous donors who financed the move and construction of new foundations. The Centerville-Washington Park District began obtaining the forested land that provides the setting for the Grant Nature Center through the transfer of forty-seven acres of estate property along Holes Creek.

Fate played its role in the birth of the Grant Nature Center. In 1964, federal law stated that school sites were required to have a minimum of five acres unless the property was adjacent to a park or other community property. The establishment of Grant Park coupled with both Normandy Elementary and Watts Middle School located nearby made it possible for the birth and future of the Grant Nature Center. Hadley Watts' dream was realized, as "(school) board and park district cooperated in creating an outdoor nature lab where young minds can be taught the art of thinking and scientific method."

Once the buildings were placed on their new foundations and refurbished, a Title-III Federal Grant was obtained to equip the facility. The grant facilitated the purchase of various scientific laboratory equipment. Talks were also underway with Dr. Vincent Shaffer, director of three National Science Camps in Nevada, Colorado, and New Hampshire, proposing that the National Science Foundation oversee the program. The addition of Centerville's facility would be most prestigious to both the community and the National Science Foundation. In keeping with the prestige associated with Grant's name, the buildings were named the Grant Life Science Center.

Program ideas for the infant Grant Life Science Center took off immediately. The summer of 1964 began with a pilot seven-week advanced science workshop. Select students from the Miami Valley chose one specific topic to study out of one hundred choices. Three times a week, noted scientific speakers presented insightful lectures. Student examinations as well as independent research and study were required. That project was abandoned after 1964, and the drive to make the Grant Life Science Center a nationally recognized mecca of scientific study eventually faded for unknown reasons.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Grant Center, January 1965. Four barns from the Normandy Lane Operation of Grant's Farm were moved to the school site and the Grant Life Science Center was born!



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Grant Nature Center, 1966

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Despite this, two of Hadley Watts' visions survived his death in 1969 and are reflected yet today in the Grant Nature Center mission. The Center became an advanced science program, and provides vocational programming.

James A. Williams led the Center from 1965-1969. Several experimental programs, including teacher workshops, resident programs, and nationally published articles in magazines, such as *Grade Teacher* distinguished this period. The programs described in *Grade Teacher* resulted in increased interest and renown for the Center as evidenced by letters requesting more information; but the newness of the programs made it difficult to respond efficiently. Another problem that impacted establishing other programs was the use of the Center as additional classroom space during the construction of Normandy Elementary. Scientific equipment was cleared from the buildings to make room for desks. In the fall of 1965, the classes were removed and the Center could once again regain its course as a resident, outdoor education facility.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Water study, approximately 1967. Anne McGahanan skims for aquatic life forms.

During this time, resident programs were at the height of popularity. Many private summer camps grew and began winter programs to offset summer revenues. The economy was good and the high tuition costs of the camps were tolerated. To begin winter programs, camp buildings were winterized and a staff with interpretive skills hired. Many young graduates spent their early

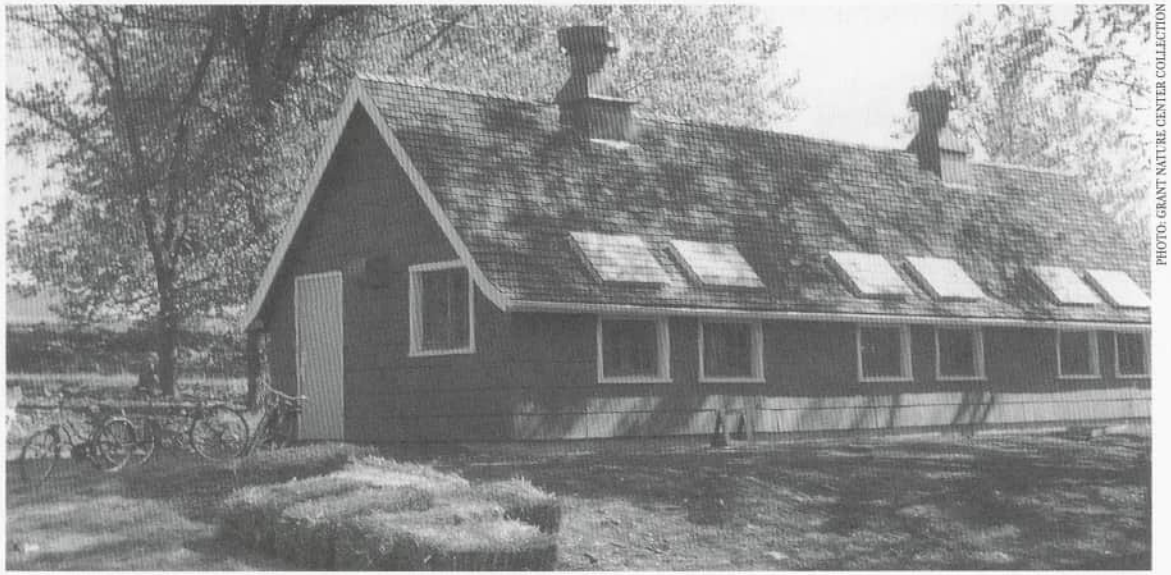


PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Suntific Building, 1964.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Normandy Elementary School utilized Nature Center buildings for classrooms in the mid '60s.

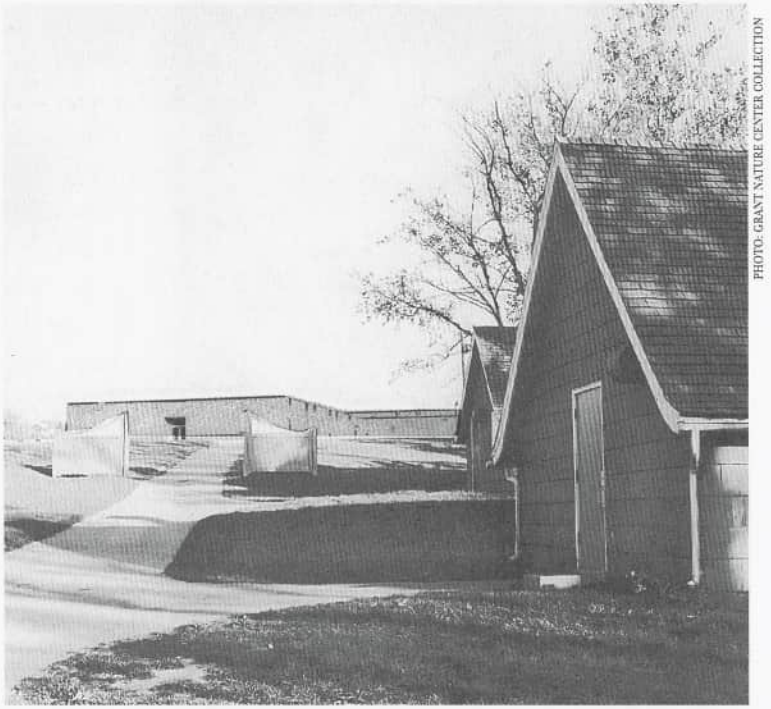


PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Grant Life Science Center, October, 1966. The newly completed Normandy Elementary School is in the background. The Center was already hosting programs. Suntific Building (back) Cedar Building (front).

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PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Ed Kramer directs a lesson in surveying.

post-graduate period in this manner, working at minimum wage for periods of twenty-four hours, teaching during the day and supervising at night. However, the staffers became disenchanted by the demands of the job and the low pay, and as time went on it became more difficult to find enthusiastic workers.

James Williams resigned and was replaced by Gordon Whitney for the 1969-1970 school year. Whitney's strength was his outstanding academic credentials; the dream of scientific prestige for the Center was revived. Under Whitney's leadership the Grant Life Science Center completed in-depth biological inventories of Grant Park, published papers, and printed brochures and teacher manuals.

Because the school district owned the facility, the four-day, three-night resident program the Grant Life Science Center offered was unique within Ohio. Two of the buildings became dormitories and two remained classrooms. The full-time director and the visiting teacher provided daytime instruction. Parent volunteers were in charge of nighttime supervision. Nearby Normandy Elementary School provided kitchen and dining facilities, showers, and an after-hours gym. By 1971, visiting classes were limited to the sixth grade. The rest of the school year (eighty days) was reserved for elementary day visits. The goal of the resident program was to include every student by encompassing an entire grade within the school district. The Center's program covered Centerville City School's entire sixth grade, and included Incarnation Parochial School. Strong support was required from all the teachers involved in the program, because it was not an integral part of the curriculum.

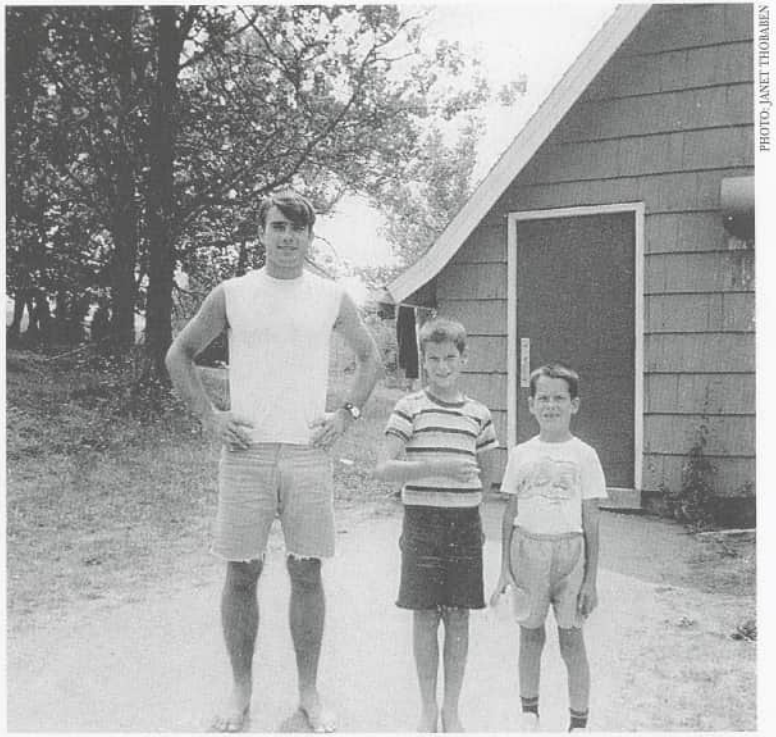


PHOTO: JANET THOBABEN

Former farm buildings at Grant Life Science Center 1967. Youth Instructor, Bob Thobaben, on left.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Scout Troop, November 1963. Generations of scout troops have held field trips, adventure days or service projects at Grant Park, learning about the natural environment or helping care for nature.

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By the early 1970s, resident programming began showing signs of struggle. The winds of change blew stronger as Interpretive Sciences were slowly introduced into the school curriculum. The Interpretive Sciences part in the curriculum did not include resident programs, but instead on-site and classroom projects. The image of students visiting an "old, wise sage" in a woodland habitat was outdated. Instead, it was a wise camp staffer who went back for his or her teaching certificate.

Challenges of this program included a lack of evening activities and proper nighttime supervision. By the mid-1970s legal liability became an increasing concern for all resident programming. Insurance for public and private camps began to escalate. Increased enrollment added additional weeks of resident programs, increasing the disgruntled feelings of overworked, underpaid camp staffers.

By 1972, the Grant Life Science Center was falling on hard times. Funding for the program was drying up because of decreased interest and a lack of funds as a result of rejected levies. Maintenance for the buildings became a problem for school-hired workers because of the structural difference between the farm buildings and the other school buildings. By this time the resident program was better known for its unsupervised evening misadventures than for its academic value. Break-ins to the dorms were a common weekend occurrence. After two years, Mr. Whitney resigned from the program and moved to a college position. John Corwin, Personnel Director for Centerville City Schools, knew that the frustration with the facility was growing at the same rate that the support was decreasing. Someone experienced with resident programming was needed or the facility would worsen in condition and face permanent closure.

In the fall of 1972, Ed Kramer was hired as the new director of the Grant Life Science Center. He offered four years of resident camp experience gained in similar conditions in Cleveland at the South-Euclid Lyndhurst School District.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

School students holding class at the Chimneys' fire circle.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Student collecting insect species for study.

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PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

For nearly 40 years, hundreds of school children have spent many hours exploring Holes Creek.

There, the school district rented and managed the River Road Camp, owned by the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District.

The River Road Camp was similar to Centerville's program in several respects. Four teachers with classes and parent volunteers stayed at the camp for four days and three nights. An additional sixth grade teacher was appointed director and left his or her classroom for a week or more to attend the camp. This was a successful program that provided new teachers with successful role models in resident education. It was this experience and knowledge that Kramer was able to later infuse into Centerville's program.

As the new director, Kramer began the task of bringing back the academic value of the resident program. The summer before Kramer started the new position, vandals burned one of the buildings. The community was quick to show support once again as the Centerville Kiwanis Club repaired the damage. The challenges with supervision were addressed by proposing that the school board approve the hiring of two teacher aides. The first crucial twenty-four hour period



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Ed Kramer, Director of Grant Nature Center from 1972 to 2000 and also the first part-time Naturalist for the Centerville-Washington Park District.

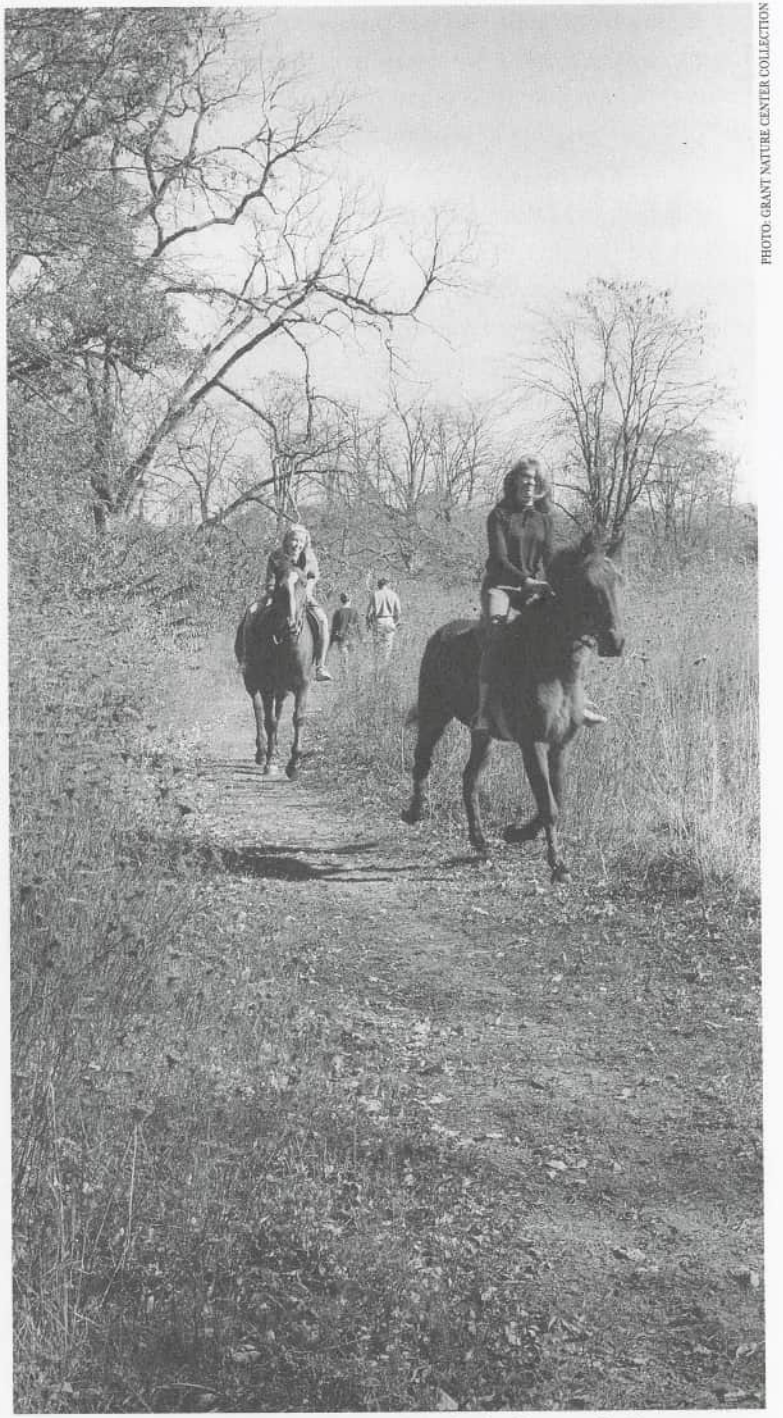


PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Horseback riding trails once crossed through the Normandy Farms area.

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of the students' overnight stays was spent establishing expected behavior. Structured evening programs and night supervision restored discipline and improved the enthusiasm for day activities. By the second night, the youngsters were noticeably better behaved and willing to sleep. The resident schedule was moved to spring and autumn time-slots, eliminating winter dates thereby allowing more daylight and outdoor activities. Finally, an alarm system was installed to prevent future vandalism.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Young student examines a weed's seeds in 1988.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Students at the Grant Life Science Center soon after its opening in 1967.

The program slowly gained strength. By the end of the first year, the future of Grant Life seemed more secure, despite failed levies. Through the Great Lakes Environmental Internship Program additional staffers were acquired. This opportunity helped many young graduates break away from residential camp programs and find teaching positions. Larger staffs allowed time for monthly community newsletters through the Park District and seasonal reports for teaching staff. The additional interns and student teachers also provided the education and training necessary to provide improved programs for elementary school day visits. The program was not limited to elementary; visiting middle school teachers gave lessons to half of their class while Grant Life staff worked with the other half. It is the popularity of these programs that would later aid in the future of the post-resident program era of the Grant Nature Center. In addition to being Director of Grant Life Science Center, Kramer was hired by the Centerville-Washington Park District to be the first part-time park naturalist. In this position, he bolstered support with the community, parents, and organizations such as Kiwanis and garden clubs, friendships that would later prove beneficial during the Grant Life restoration.

The decline of the Grant Life Science Center began in 1974. Daytime trips began replacing nighttime experiences because of a lack of staffing. Kramer felt that changing the specialized camping program for middle school youngsters to mere field trips would deprive students of important experiences both with the outdoors and each other. The district cut funds to the Center in 1974, but shied away from asking parents to pay an additional fee to maintain the camping program. Despite the fear of requesting additional fees from parents, a fifteen-dollar tuition was quickly approved because of the Center's popularity. In 1975, the program was threatened again as Centerville faced another school levy; the resident program was the perfect "extra" to cut because, despite its popularity, it was nonessential.

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The name of the Grant Life Science Center was changed to the Grant Nature Center in 1979, sweeping away the last link to the previous vision as a clinical center for science and research. The change was made to signify equity with neighboring nature centers and to identify with the popular 1970s environmental movement, creating a more woodsy, friendly atmosphere and increasing appeal to younger generations.

In 1981, the board decided to close the Grant Nature Center. The prospect of losing the popular program bothered the community members enough to focus their attention on schools. This was exactly the reaction the board wanted. It made good press to stress the economic plight of the district, but without damaging programs less visible but more difficult to replace. In addition, the Nature Center's buildings were so badly in need of repair that they seemed derelict, and vandalism was increasing again.

Despite efforts by Mr. Kramer and others to save resident education at Grant Nature Center, it failed for many reasons. Resident programs were very popular to the public, but were not an integral part of the school curriculum. Although abundant staffing produced exciting opportunities for programs, one full-time teacher, two teacher aides, and an intern made the program expensive, and student fees were one-third to one-half the cost of other resident programs in the area. Overnight liability continued to be an ever-increasing concern. Student behavior was under control, but there was simply no room for error. Any misconduct was scrutinized by the administration, especially if a parent complaint was attached. Also, obtaining two moms and two dads as parent volunteers for each of the three nights became more difficult. Family patterns changed to more single parent households and two income families. The parents did not seem to have the time to invest in the program. Organized after-school activities became more popular as well, further diminishing the need for the resident program.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Students learn about the natural environment through fun games at the Grant Nature Center.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Noted scientific speakers presented lectures to students at the Grant Life Science Center, in the Evergreen building.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Learning about the native wildlife, like this black rat snake teaches students the importance of all living creatures.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Campers hear stories about nature from counselor Kathy Clayton at Hidden Meadows Day Camp at Grant Nature Center.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Ms. Kay Hain's class descends the wooded hillsides to the stream, as they explore the vast and varied terrain of Grant Park, approximately 1967.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Parent volunteers help expand program offerings at the Grant Nature Center.

In 1983, resident programs finally faded away and were replaced by daytime field trips that attempted to preserve the feeling of an experience in nature. In the May 25, 1983, edition of the *Dayton Daily News*, Kramer stated, "What the Center tries to do is provide children with hands-on experience in nature…allowing them to have the fun of discovering on their own. They find things; they come up with evidence and make hypotheses. It really is a valuable education for them." Instead of the extended stay provided by resident programs, the Center was now hoping to focus on reinforcement through daytime visits for kindergarten through sixth grade.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Group participatory games are part of the learning programs at Grant Nature Center.

Three people played an important part in the rebirth of the Grant Nature Center: Dr. Don Overly, Will Cale, and Pat Buckingham. Dr. Overly, Superintendent of Centerville City Schools at that time, was always encouraging and worked to provide funds for the later refurbishing of the Center. Will Cale, curriculum director, worked to keep the Center as part of the school district's busy schedule, and provided additional programming through the Environmental Education Management course at the high school. As Elementary Principal and Elementary Curriculum Specialist, Pat Buckingham provided insight into the weakness of science instruction on the elementary level. She worked to provide a separate kindergarten camp at the Centerville Kindergarten Village when the Center suffered from overcrowding.

At that time, Grant Nature Center was one of the first institutions in the state to offer environmental curriculum programs such as *Project Learning Tree* and *Project Wild* workshops. Half of all elementary teachers received training and materials. Demand for elementary visits was stimulated by the workshops,

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

An elementary class enters the park over the log bridge.

but fewer visits were provided because increased enrollment threatened to overwhelm the Center's staff and facilities. Ms. Buckingham was in a position to change this pattern as a window of opportunity opened in the form of the demise of the resident program. Out of the death of the original program came a plan which attempted to solve many of the previous problems and endures successfully today.

Four major changes made up the new program. Spring and autumn sixth grade visits concluded in two days instead of five. Second and third graders came for one day in the spring and autumn for visits, and kindergarten and first graders visited half days each season. Winter camp included all fourth and fifth grade classes for two consecutive days.

The significance of the new program was two-fold. Since the program included all students from kindergarten through sixth grade, environmental science was included within all levels of elementary science curriculum. Secondly, the natural habitat of Grant Park provided an excellent medium for hands-on scientific learning. Science content was effectively retained by actively engaging students in investigations during each visit, exposing them to the plants and animals in natural habitat, rather than abstractly in pages of textbooks. Each grade level advanced to higher levels of observation, recording, and extrapolating built upon previous visits. Grant Nature Center became known for its continually challenging pursuits rather than as an isolated



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Ms. Kay Hain's class uses a fallen tree as a natural bridge, approximately 1967.

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experience. It included practice in motor skills for the elementary level. For example, hand-eye coordination of catching a butterfly was coupled with the learning of different wing patterns. Retention from one year to the next was higher due to reinforcement, individual discovery, and the eagerness of students to be challenged.

After 1981, the end of the resident program, staffing changed dramatically. Only one teacher/director and a para-naturalist provided all instruction for the sixth graders. The science teacher who accompanied the program was sent back to the classroom alleviating disruptions caused by rotating class schedules at the middle school. The new para-naturalist, Mary Rose Back, became an invaluable asset to the Nature Center, providing enthusiasm, energy, and excitement for the children. Teachers continued to accompany all other grades. Fourth and fifth grade teachers were actively involved as instructors, and second and third grades teachers were passively involved during the morning program, providing instruction in the afternoon. Approximately sixty parent volunteers instructed kindergarten and first grades. To ease parent's fears of not knowing enough to be helpful, the center provided a half-day instructional program in scientific inquiry and habitat before each visit.

The new program at Grant Nature Center was nearly filled to capacity. Despite its success, ever-increasing enrollment in the school district threatened the integrated program. The opening of Centerville Kindergarten Village in 1991 provided a window of opportunity. Kindergarten visits to the Center were eliminated in favor of developing a land lab in a wooded lot next to the new school. The land lab, called *Wee Woods,* was a joint project of the teachers, Grant Nature Center staff, and a core of dedicated volunteers. Unfortunately, technicalities caused the loss of the lease on the adjacent lot, ending the program and Pat Buckingham's involvement with the Grant Nature Center.

Ever-pressing demands on the staff and facilities required restructuring of the scheduled class visits. As of autumn 1987, second grade visits were consolidated to half-days and moved to early spring and late autumn. In the autumn of 1991, another important development occurred. For the first time since 1981, middle school teachers accompanied their sixth grade classes to the Center, reducing the dates by half, renewing a valuable connection to the middle school teachers, and cementing the program in the curriculum. Often inclement weather interfered with the second grade program. To correct this new problem, an additional substitute teacher was hired in 1996 to instruct the sixth grade program. This provided adequate staffing to allow the second grade program to overlap the sixth grade program during better weather.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Early study program for school students in 1985.

In 1992, through the influence of Will Cale, vocational Environmental Management classes began at the high school replacing a failed law enforcement program. Ironically, having a vocational program at the Center fulfilled one of Hadley Watts' original dreams. Poor weather prevented elementary class visits to the Center in early March. However, it provided an excellent time slot for junior and senior classes to accent their learning in Environmental Management class. The program gained strength and success under Robert Erwin. The Center was also involved in land-lab development and inquiry based activities provided at each elementary school, e.g., Dr. John Hole's Earth Quest. Ed Kramer and his helpers constructed grow light stands, weather stations, and bird watching posts at each of the schools extending the Grant Nature Center's hands-on experience.

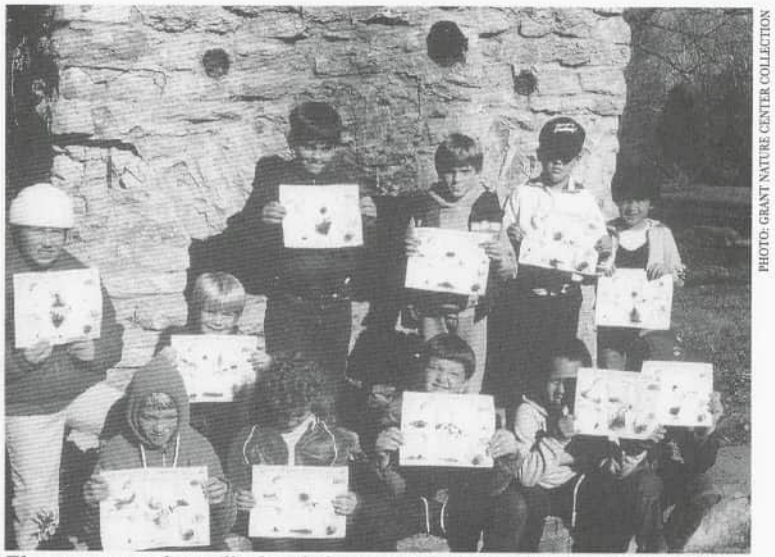


PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Elementary students display their nature charts at The Chimneys in 1985.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The amphitheater at the edge of the Nature Center allows for outdoor training.

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The greatest accomplishment of the Grant Nature Center since the end of the resident program was the restoration of the facility itself. By 1981, the buildings had deteriorated so badly that the fire marshal threatened to close the Center for numerous violations.

On February 22, 1982, Centerville City Schools sent letters to all community groups in the Centerville-Washington Township area asking for aid during this time of need. The community once again showed support through neighborhood garden clubs and assistance from Carolyn Seibert, who became the spokesperson for the restoration project. They started a fund for restoration of the outer sides of the structures with cedar board, batten, and new roofs. Initial response was good, and $1,500 was raised. However, enthusiasm began to wane before the $3,000 needed for each building was reached. Mrs. Seibert wrote Dr. Overly asking if a matching fund of $1,500 could be provided to restore one building. Dr. Overly showed his support and helped to complete one building. These efforts stirred support from the community once again, and monies for the rest of the project were quickly raised. In turn, overwhelming support by the community and Dr. Overly influenced school administrators to take a more positive outlook. On June 16, 1988, the restoration project was brought to a close with a final check for $1,800, bringing the total to an amazing $8,000. In 1997, the restoration was completed by paving the previously gravelled lane to the Center.

The spring of 1989 marked Grant Nature Center's twenty-fifth anniversary. The restored facilities coupled with new landscaping by the garden clubs made the celebration complete, and promised a new era for the Center. Indeed, the years that followed were both peaceful and productive.

Surrounding development began to infringe upon the animals living in Grant Park. The construction of I-675 just south of Grant Park in the early 1980s threatened the deer population. Neil Huelsman noted that "the highway severed the whitetails' natural migration route between the park and the Caesars Creek Park area." The waterlife in Grant Park was also in jeopardy since "run-off caused by development surrounding the park has robbed Holes Creek of its trout. Mr. Kramer said that the creek was a good spring-fed trout habitat until warm drainage water raises the temperature of the creek above 55°F." The Park District adopted measures to ensure future protection of natural habitat in Grant Park. The environmental status of the park is used to teach children about the effects of civilization on natural habitat by showing them the real effects their own suburban community has had on Grant Park.

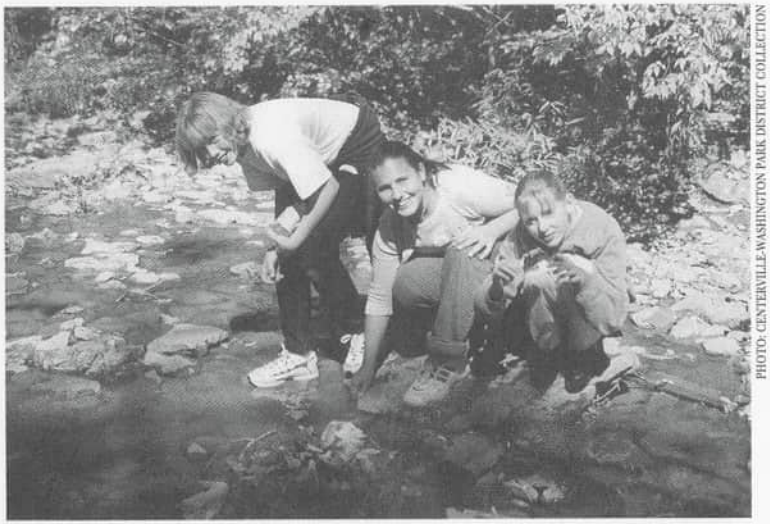


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Holes Creek is still a favorite spot for students to explore at Grant Park in the fall of 2000.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Children playing "Meet a Tree" at the picnic grounds adjacent to The Chimneys, the former site of the Grant Cabin.

Work with the physical and learning disabled also changed considerably. Camp Progress has been an integral part of the Nature Center for over twenty-five years. It provides a unique blend of outdoor activities and remedial studies for youngsters needing constant reinforcement. There was the challenge to service special needs during regular school programs. Difficult hikes and subject matter were adjusted to accommodate their needs.

Ed Kramer retired from the school district in August, 2000, after 20 years as Director of the Nature Center. He was replaced by Steve Huff, who was a classroom teacher with the Centerville City School District for 10 years and was very familiar with the Nature Center program.

Mary Rose Back retired from the center in 2002 after 20 years of leading students on environmental explorations through the park.

The history of the Grant Nature Center has been an exciting story laced with trials and change. The endurance of this program is evidence of its true worth. Its value to the community is reflected in the effort, support, and love citizens have given each time the center was in need. Nature Center staff

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PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

The entrance to Grant Nature Center, located next to the 187-acre Grant Park and Normandy Elementary School, 2001.

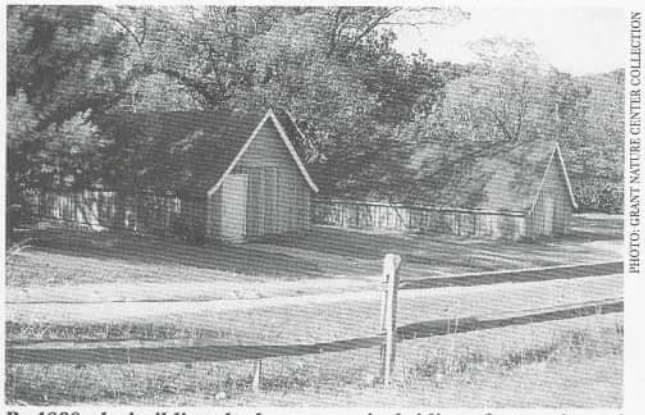


PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

By 1989, the buildings had a new vertical siding of natural wood applied. Left to right, the Suntific and Cedar Buildings.

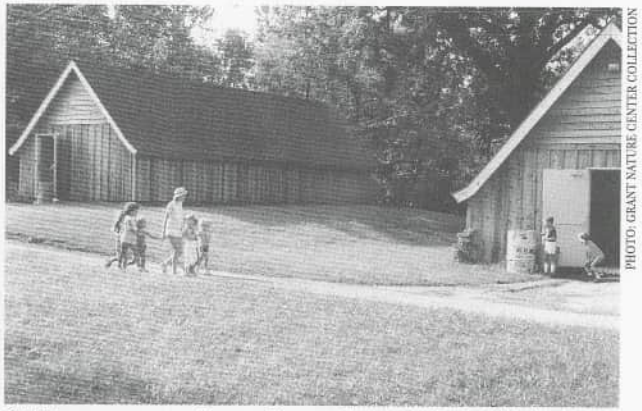


PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Children return to Grant Nature Center after a hike in Grant Park, 1990.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Steve Huff, former Park District Summer staff, now Grant Nature Center Director, having fun with campers at Hidden Meadows Day Camp.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

The Grant Life Science Center was renamed Grant Nature Center in 1979 to support the environmental education movement. As part of the 1989 facelift new signage was added.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Mary Rose Back (center) with Camp Progress counselors and campers exploring summertime in the park, 1997.

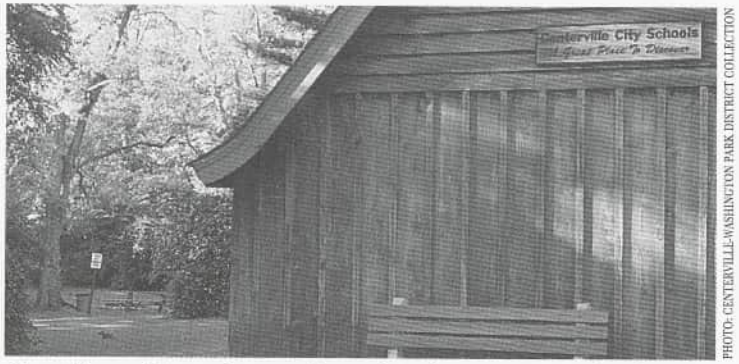


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION



Grant Nature Center is an outdoor education center owned and operated by the Centerville City School District.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Playing games, learning about nature; Hidden Meadows Day Camp 1990

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members are reminded of the reason so many have invested in the Grant Nature Center dream each time a student approaches them and notes how the experience influenced his or her career or life. Ed Kramer always kept a handmade card that a child wrote to the Nature Center once, saying, "Thanks, Mr. Kramer, now we know more about nature than we should." The Nature Center provided a life-shaping experience for so many young people, and it is hoped will endure for years to come.

* * *



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Hands-on exploration of nature develops an appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

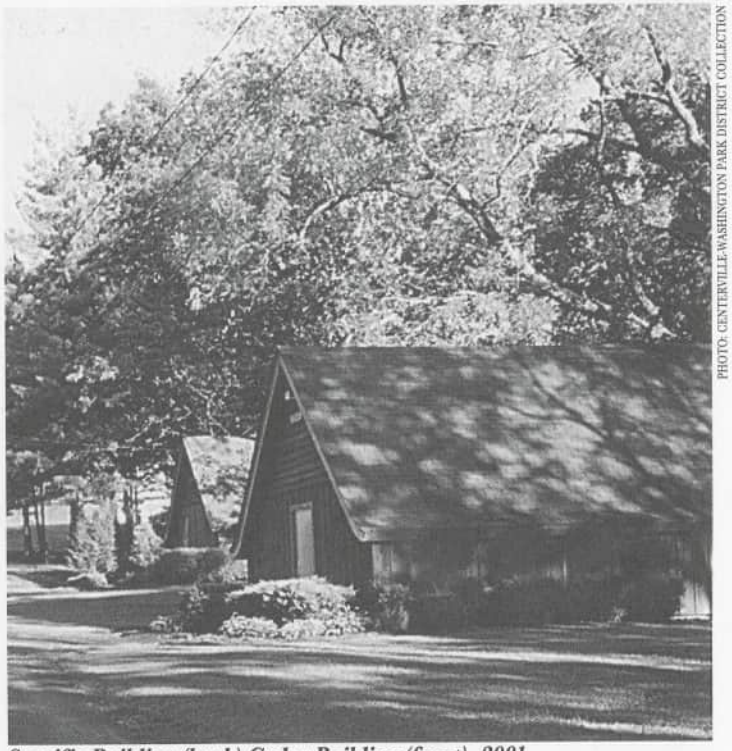
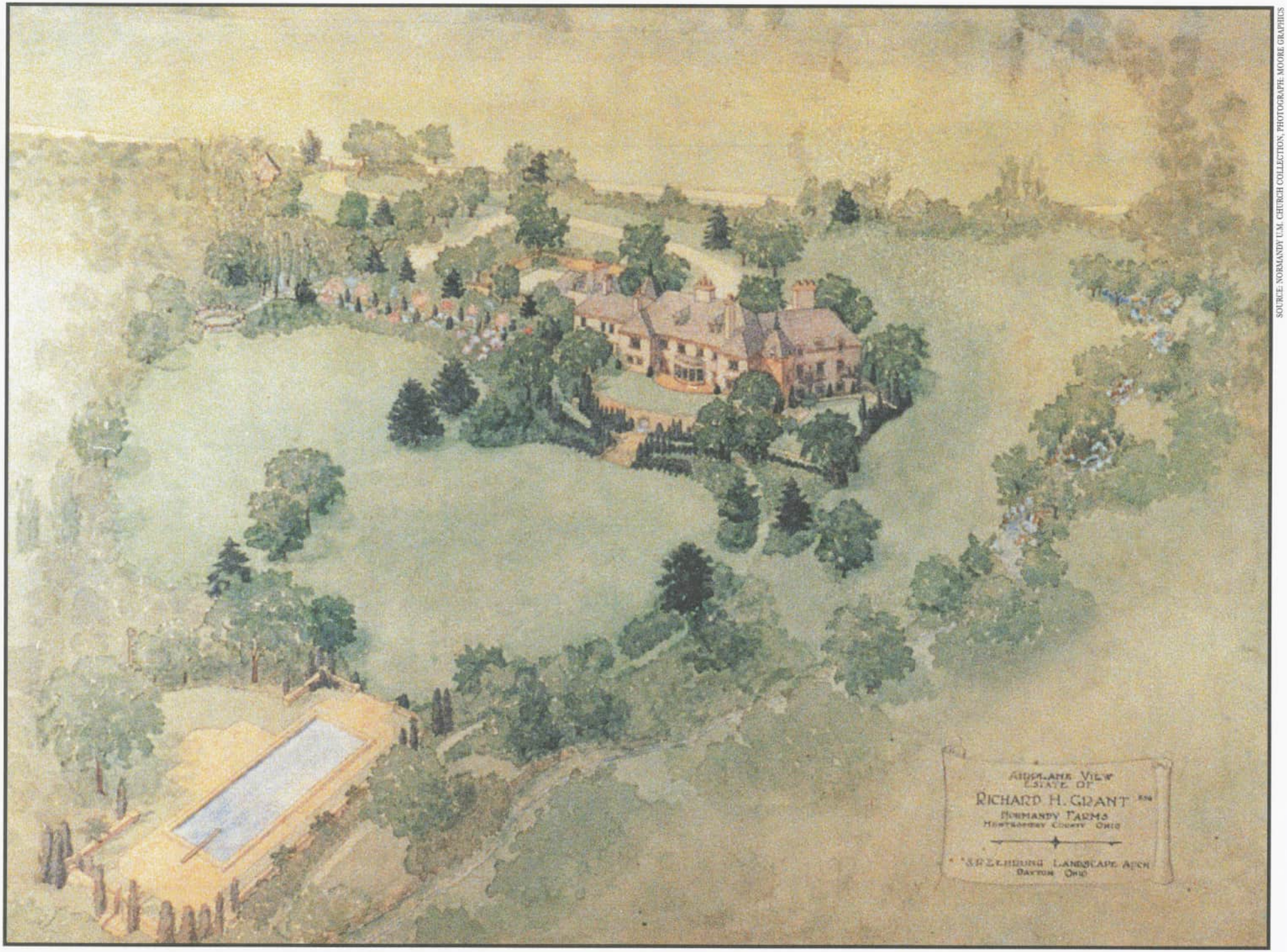


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Suntific Building (back) Cedar Building (front), 2001.

SEE ADDITIONAL COLOR PHOTOS IN THE COLOR CENTER SECTION.

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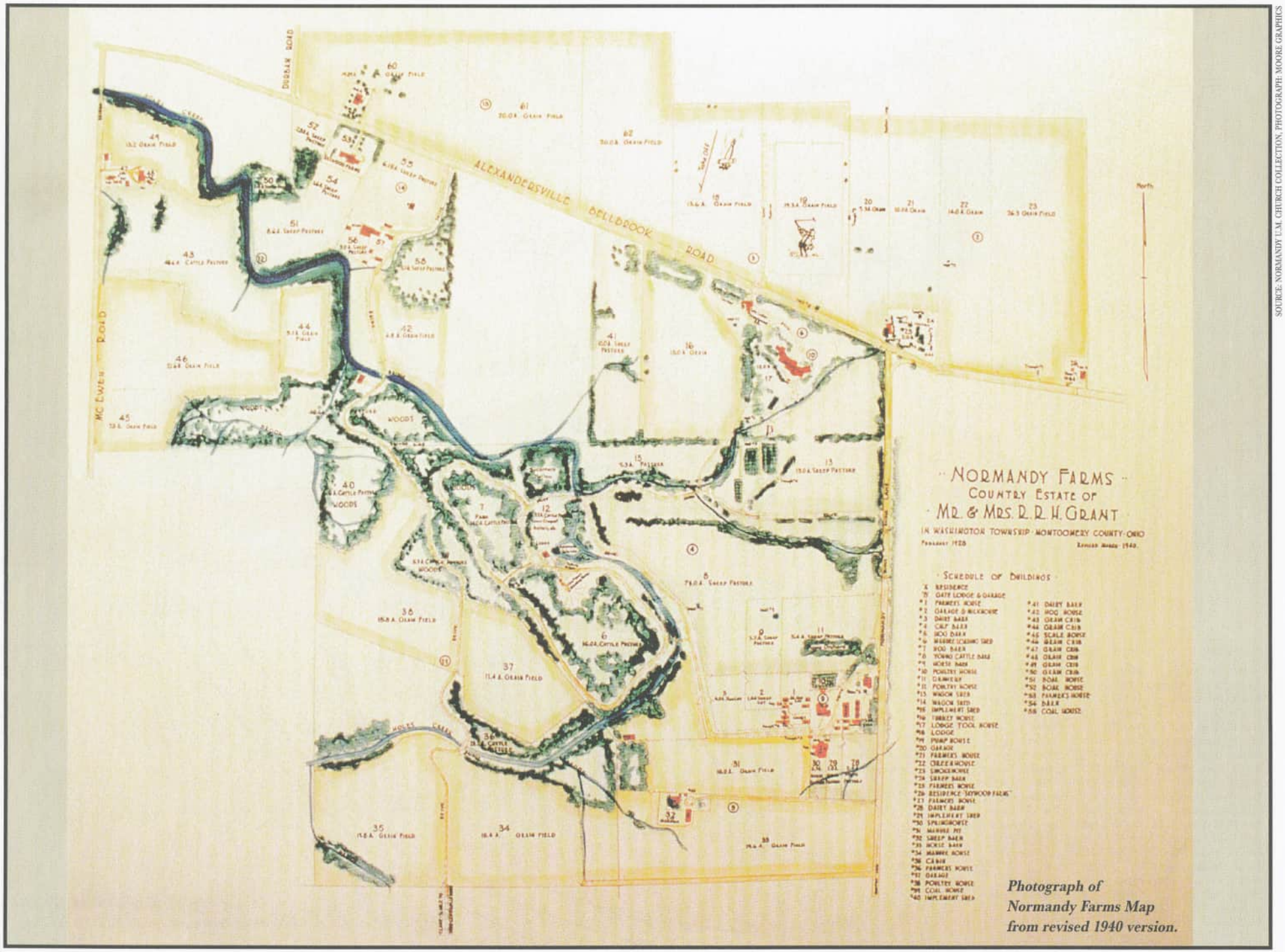
SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION, PHOTOGRAPH: MOORE GRAPHICS

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SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION, COMPUTER COPY: MOORE GRAPHICS

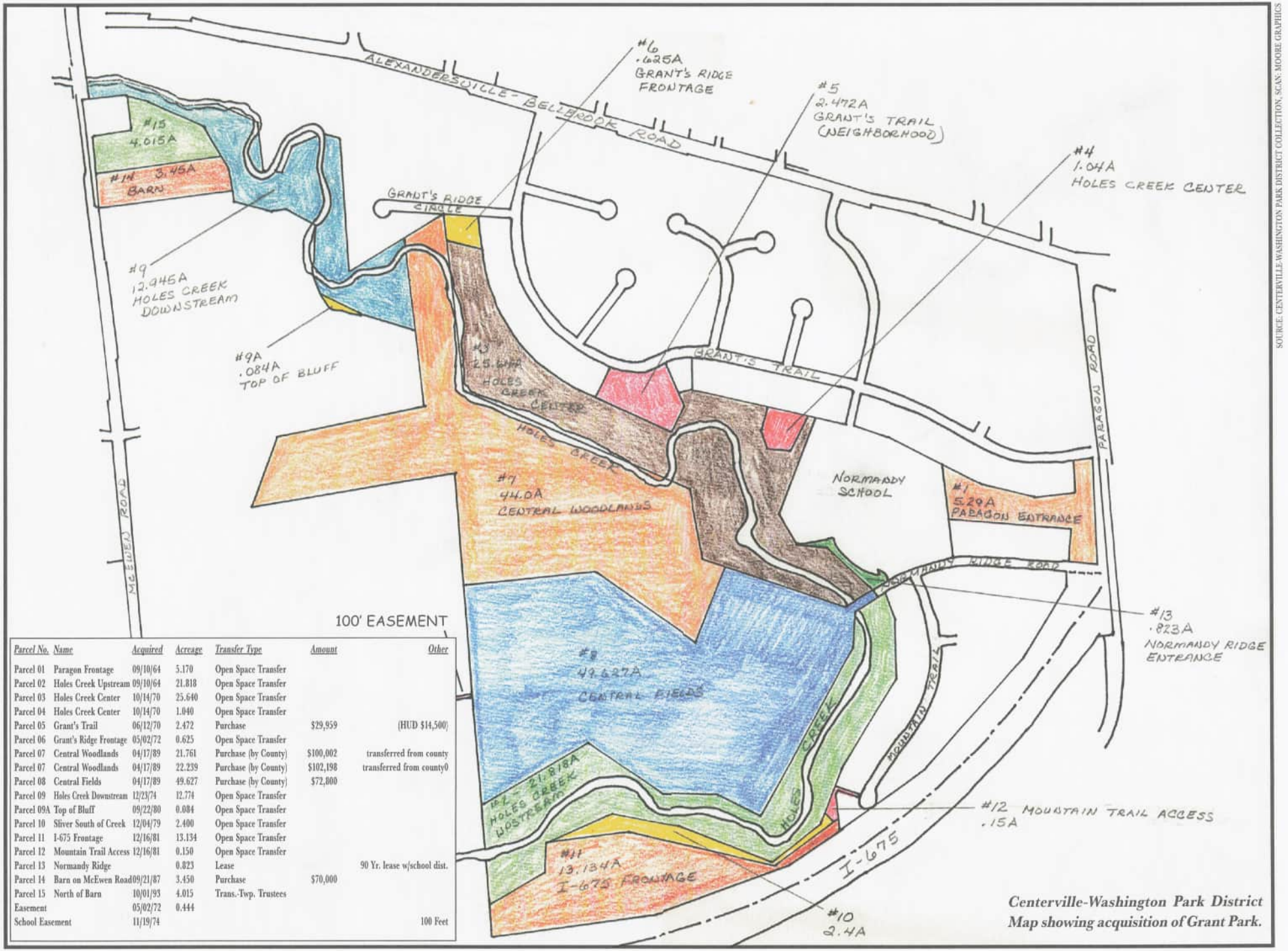
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Photograph of Normandy Farms Map from revised 1940 version.

SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION, PHOTOGRAPH: MOORE GRAPHICS

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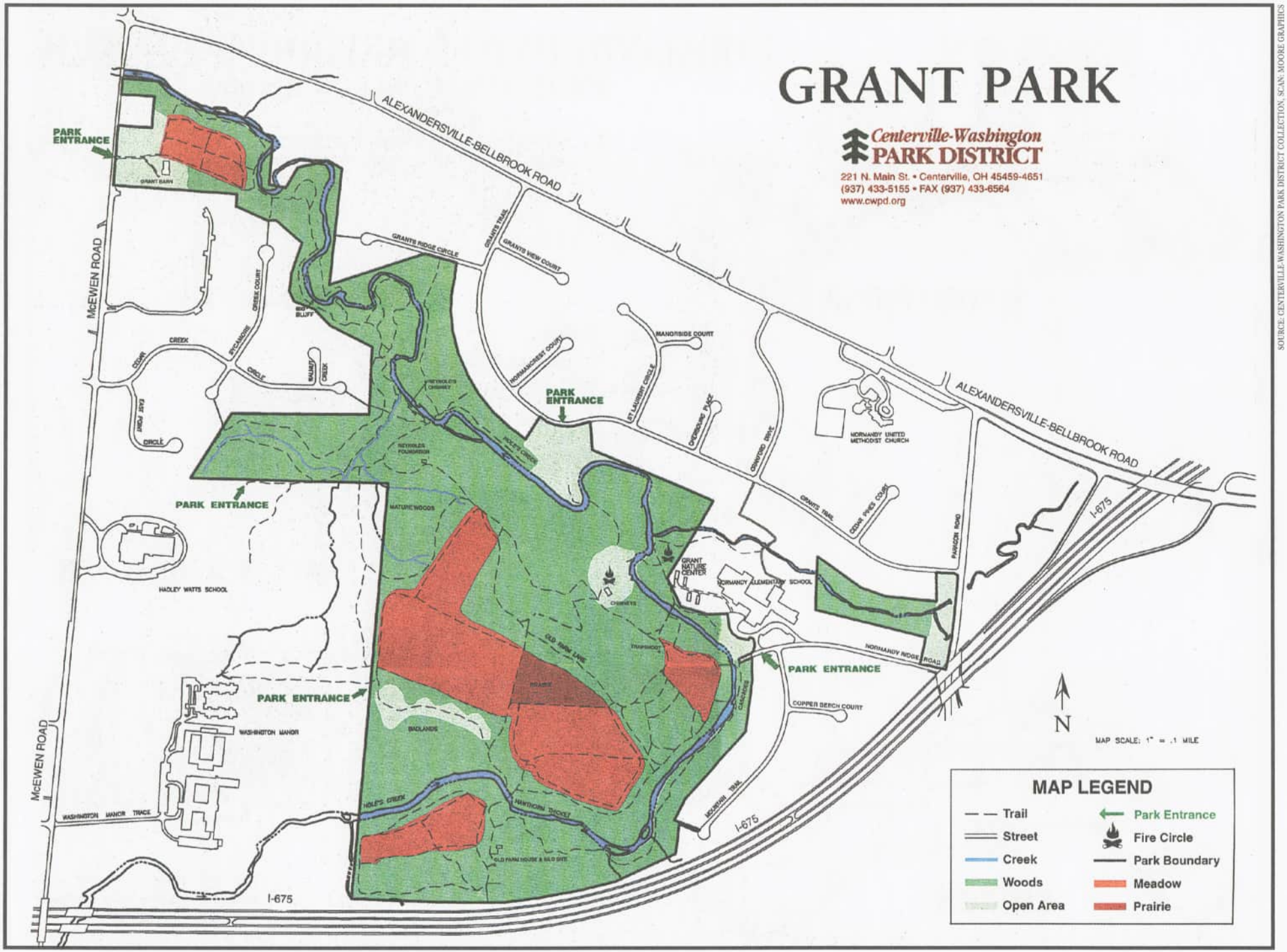


Parcel No.	Name	Acquired	Acreage	Transfer Type	Amount	Other
Parcel 01	Paragon Frontage	09/10/64	5.170	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 02	Holes Creek Upstream	09/10/64	21.818	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 03	Holes Creek Center	10/14/70	25.640	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 04	Holes Creek Center	10/14/70	1.040	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 05	Grant's Trail	06/12/70	2.472	Purchase	$29,959	(HUD $14,500)
Parcel 06	Grant's Ridge Frontage	05/02/72	0.625	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 07	Central Woodlands	04/17/89	21.761	Purchase (by County)	$100,002	transferred from county
Parcel 07	Central Woodlands	04/17/89	22.239	Purchase (by County)	$102,198	transferred from county0
Parcel 08	Central Fields	04/17/89	49.627	Purchase (by County)	$72,800	
Parcel 09	Holes Creek Downstream	12/23/74	12.774	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 09A	Top of Bluff	09/22/80	0.084	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 10	Sliver South of Creek	12/04/79	2.400	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 11	I-675 Frontage	12/16/81	13.134	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 12	Mountain Trail Access	12/16/81	0.150	Open Space Transfer		
Parcel 13	Normandy Ridge		0.823	Lease		90 Yr. lease w/school dist.
Parcel 14	Barn on McEwen Road	09/21/87	3.450	Purchase	$70,000	
Parcel 15	North of Barn	10/01/93	4.015	Trans.-Twp. Trustees		
Easement		05/02/72	0.444			
School Easement		11/19/74				100 Feet

Centerville-Washington Park District
Map showing acquisition of Grant Park.

SOURCE: CENTERVILLE WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION, SCAN: MOORE GRAPHICS

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SOURCE: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION, SCAN: MOORE GRAPHICS

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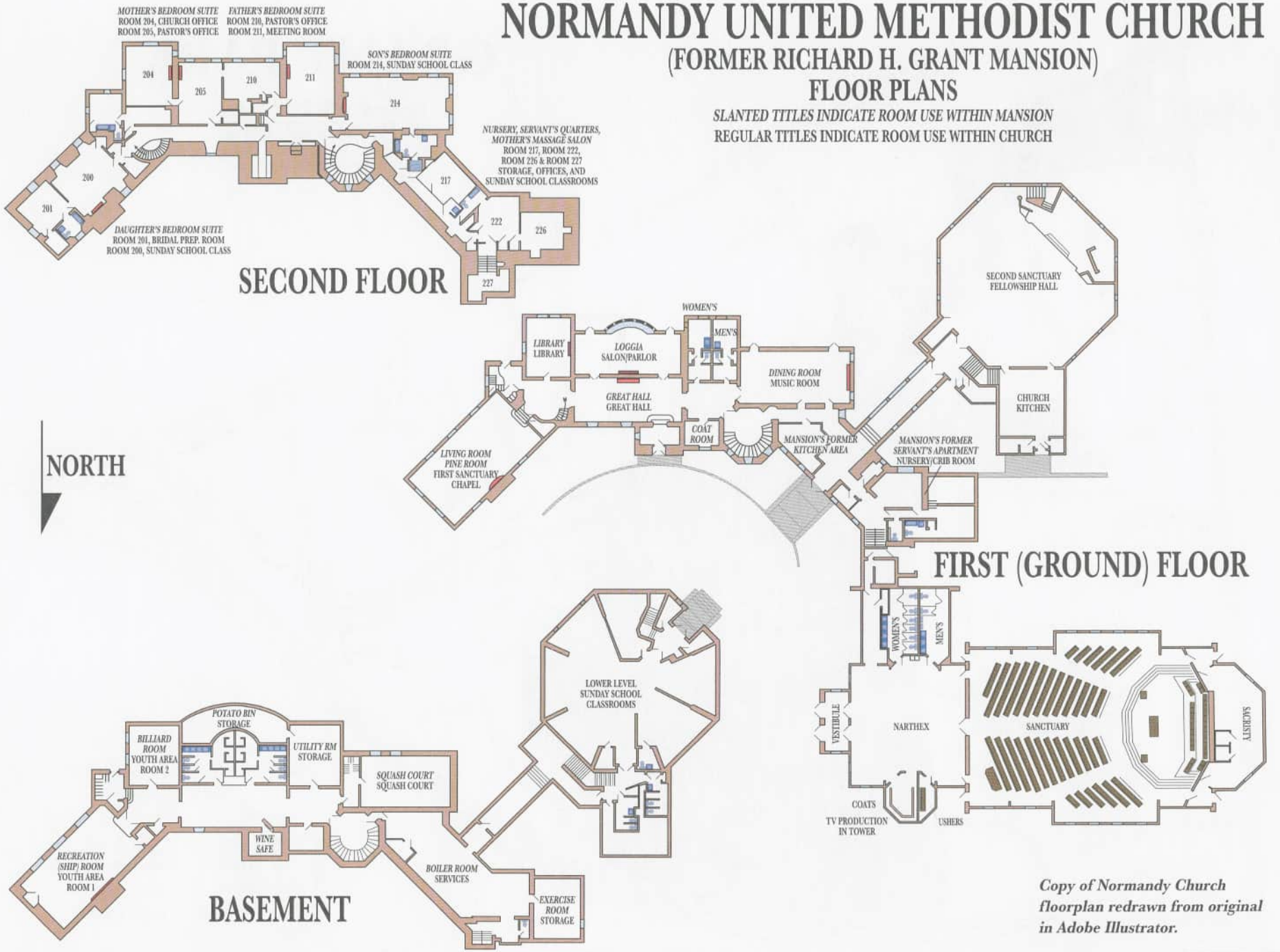
NORMANDY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(FORMER RICHARD H. GRANT MANSION)

FLOOR PLANS

SLANTED TITLES INDICATE ROOM USE WITHIN MANSION

REGULAR TITLES INDICATE ROOM USE WITHIN CHURCH



Copy of Normandy Church floorplan redrawn from original in Adobe Illustrator.

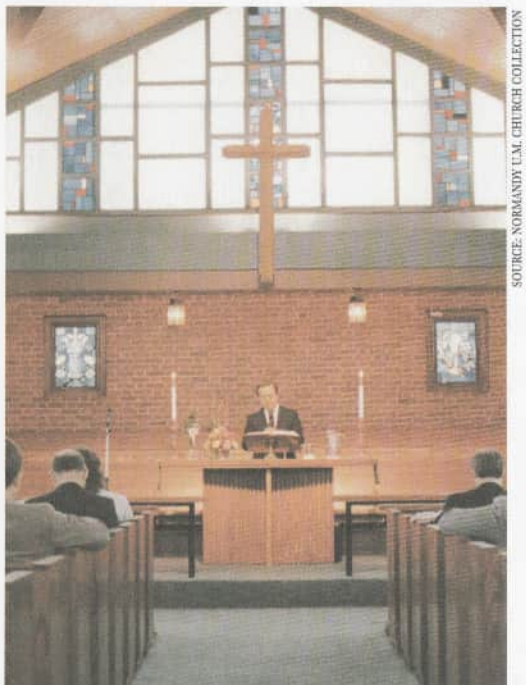
SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION, COMPUTER COPY: MOORE GRAPHICS

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PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The stained glass coats of arms and crests in the former Grant home library, now the church study.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Fellowship Hall when it served as the sanctuary with stained glass windows above, 1963.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Reverend Frazer and Reverend Bonnie Loudner at groundbreaking for the new sanctuary March 24, 1996.



SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The new sanctuary consecrated January 12, 1997.

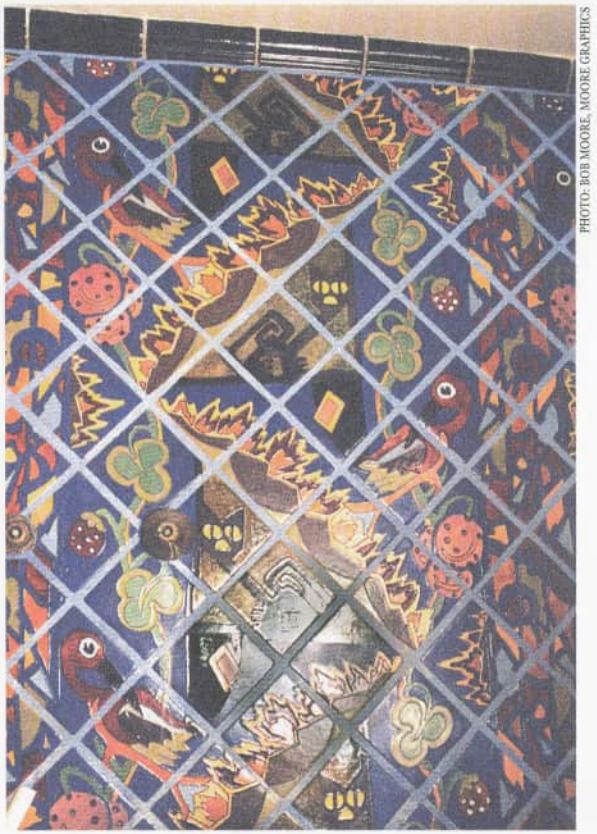


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

This unique, primitive tiled interior of the wet bar in the basement (ship) recreation room shows the attention to detail the Grant's paid throughout the mansion.

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SOURCE: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

(Left) The grand stairway at Normandy Methodist Church during Christmas season.

(Right) Richard H. Grant Jr.'s great-grandchildren circa 1999. (l-r,top, Miller Robinson, Georgia Morley, Olivia Robinson, Nicholas Morley, Helen Robinson. (l-r, lower, Hamilton Morley, Thiele Schroeder, Kingsley Schroeder.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Scouts from Troop 316 gather for hike, October 1965. Gatehouse in background.



SOURCE: LIZ GRANT SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Grant Mansion, circa 1954. Note wishing well, center.

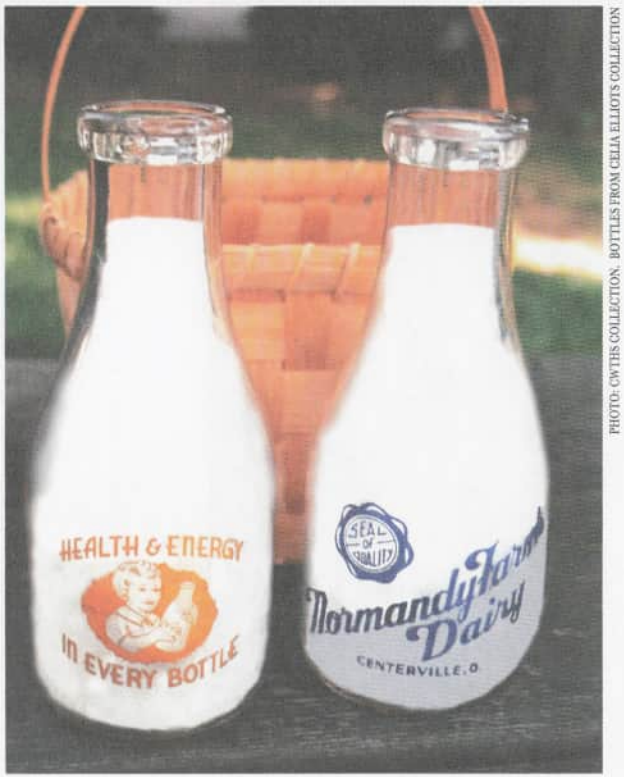


PHOTO: CWTHS COLLECTION. BOTTLES FROM CELIA ELLIOTS COLLECTION

(Left) Samples of the original Normandy Farms Dairy bottles used in the 1930s and 1940s.



SOURCE: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

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Don Armstrong's aerial photograph of Normandy Elementary School, 2002

PHOTO: DON ARMSTRONG AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

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PHOTO: CHRIS STEWART, DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Principal Gloria Clouse (center) and 5th grade teacher Pam Smiga (left) prepare for a balloon ride with Captain Denny Dice (right) in recognition of Normandy students reading 100,000 minutes—November 2001
Credit Chris Stewart, DDN



PHOTO: CHRIS STEWART, DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Normandy Elementary students create components of the community in their paper city. Top left, Mitchell Link; standing right, Lauren Schultz; kneeling left, Nick Gorski; and kneeling right, Amy Feola.

(Below) Mary Rose Back and Steve Huff in front of one of the original Normandy Farms buildings now used as headquarters for Grant Nature Center



SOURCE: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION



SOURCE: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION, PHOTO: LAURA SHAGORY

(Above) Norman D. Bear provides comfort to kids who are victims of displacement.



SOURCE: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

(Above) Four of Normandy Elementary's five principals: from a photo taken at the 25th anniversary celebration, 1989.
(Left to right) Gloria Clouse, Robert Savage, Margaret Barclay, and Jeff Kunst.

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SOURCE: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Students participate in special Spirit Days. Wildcat T-shirts were worn by Erin Brigati, Rachel Swillinger, Stephanie DePalma, Stephanie Scudder, and Principal, Gloria Clouse (left to right).



SOURCE: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Normandy Staff during 2001-2002 Construction (from left to right)
Kneeling: Vivian Baker, Jaylene Thomas, Jackie Harvey, Kay Kloppenburg, Kathy Sinewe. Standing: Gloria Clouse, Kris Johnson, Nancy Freking, Phyllis Reed, Josie Szloh, Diane Colvin, Cinde Drew, Laura Cooke, Peggy Satzger, Wendy Karth, Jan Taylor, Michelle Crabtree, Anne Welp, Jackie Lunsford, Lois Tischer, Sharon Deeter, Debbie Russell, Debbie Harvey, Joan Dodge, Pam Steade. On scaffolding: Keely Bush, Dianne Buehrle, Pam Smiga, Karen Nowicki. Top Row: Alice Tavani, Melanie Tarpey, (Cole Hetman), Stephanie Sandrock, Kristin Whitlock, Christin Skidmore, Judy Mack, Kyle Hetman, Rebecca Probasco, Alison Bialeck. Teachers Not Pictured: Rebecca O'Neil, Pam Beck.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Students enjoying the Grant Nature Center in the 1970's.



SOURCE: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION



SOURCE: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

(Left) Students at Normandy Elementary create a tropical rainforest mural as a backdrop to a new terrarium installed in the lobby in 1994 in memory of teacher, Kathy Becker. Mural painters shown are Chip Johnson, Eric Srosiak, Abagail Martin, Nicolette Nyamweya, Mark Palmasano and Art Teacher, Janeth Valley.

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PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

The Grant Nature Center soon after the buildings were moved from the farm complex, 1964.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

The Suntific Building at the Grant Nature Center, 1964.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

By May 1987 the old farm buildings were in need of a facelift.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

In 1988, area garden and service clubs helped finance the renovation of the old nature center buildings.



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

The Grant Nature Center after renovation in 1988. Left to right, are the Evergreen and Pine Buildings.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The log bridge was replaced by a truss bridge in 1981 and provides an overlook to the Holes Creek below.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Water is part of the learning experience for youngsters at the Grant Nature Center.

Jason Boerger, former Park Naturalist conducts winter camp class inside Evergreen Building.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Children learn about the natural environment through hands-on investigations and explorations.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Outdoor education training for adults is provided by the Park District in all seasons of the years. Left to right: Kendra Schide, Steve Huff, Kathy Gray, Michael Stoecz.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Birdwatchers of all ages delight in searching for hundreds of species of birds that live in or pass through Grant Park.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Park District Volunteer Naturalists take time out from teaching preschoolers to learn more about the natural environment themselves. Front to back: Nancy Steinfurth, Jennifer Swan, Karen MacAulay, Kendra Schide, Sheila Hyland, Laura Kordik, Kristina (Davis) Kwak, Steve Huff and Nancy Kiernan.



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Roasting marshmallows over an open fire is a favorite summertime activity. In the background are the chimneys of the former Grant summer cabin.

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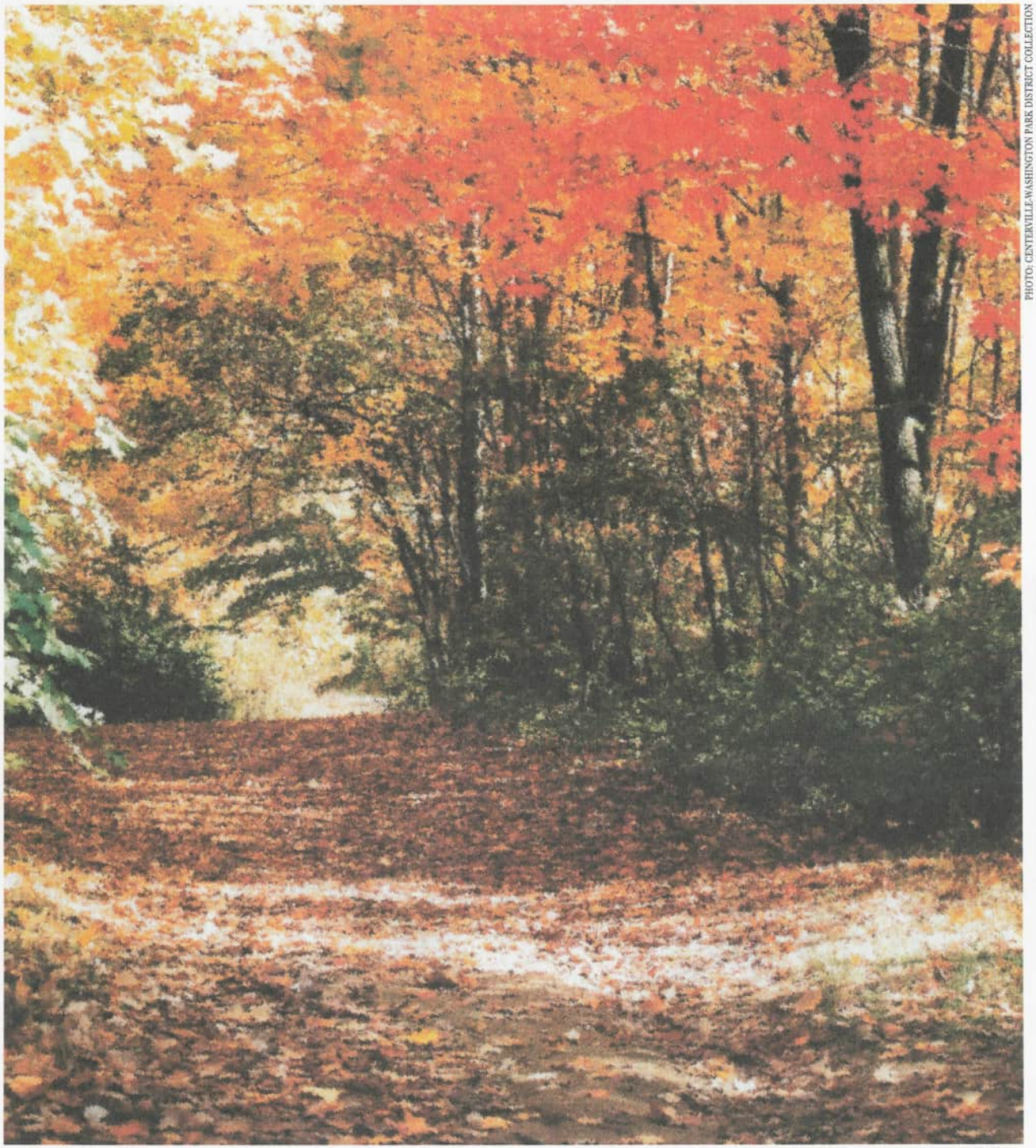


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The old farm lane through the park provides a lovely hiking path.

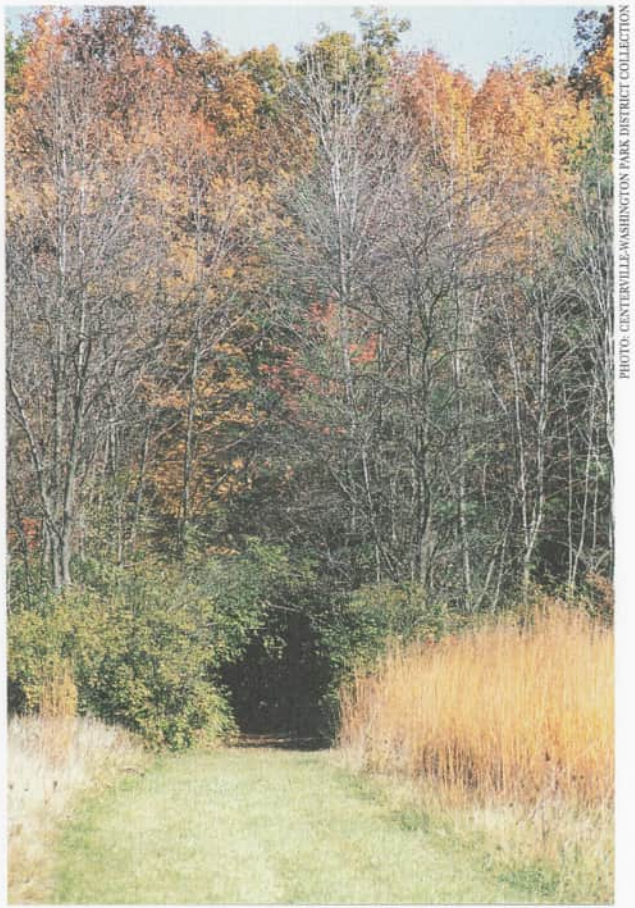


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

The old farm lane leading from prairie into the forest.

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PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Grant Park Prairie-Big Bluestem



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Baby Opossum



PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Purple Coneflower in the prairie.

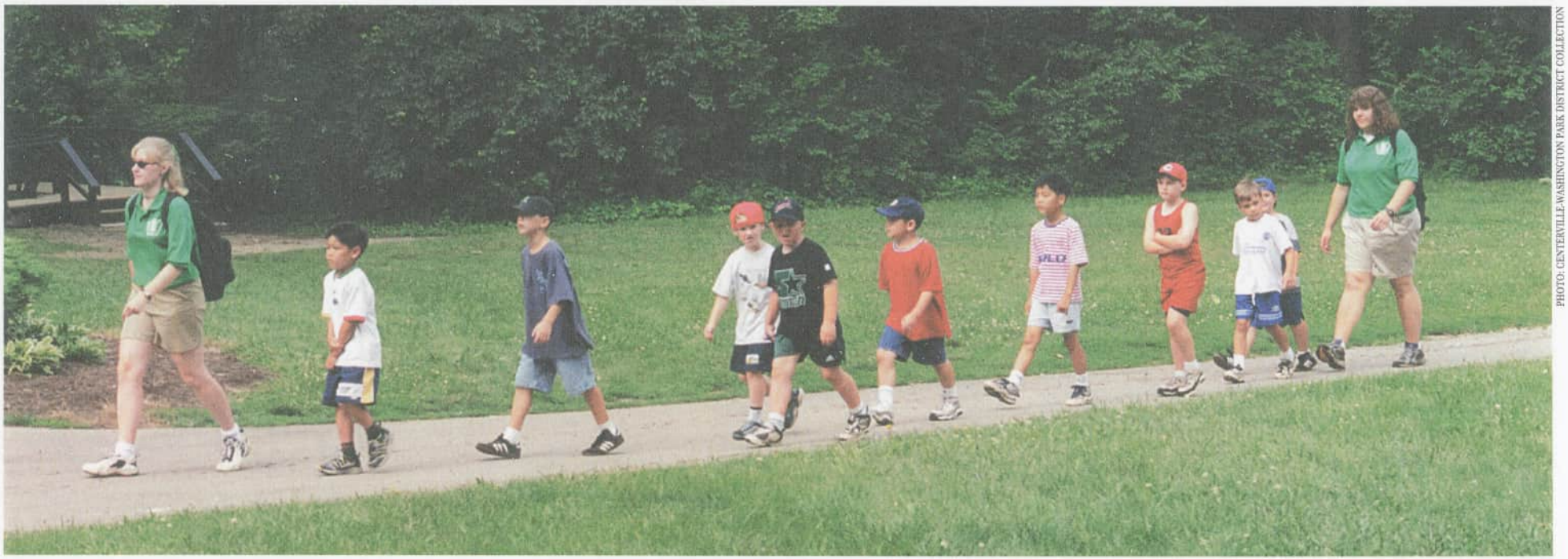


PHOTO: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

Hidden Meadows Day Camp group heads out on the trails.

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Normandy Elementary:
A Great Place to Learn

PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

"What sculpture is to a block of marble,
education is to the human soul."

— Joseph Addison (1672 - 1719)



PHOTO: GRANT NATURE CENTER COLLECTION

Judith Stevens' fifth grade class meets in the converted Normandy Farms buildings while awaiting the completion of the school in 1964.

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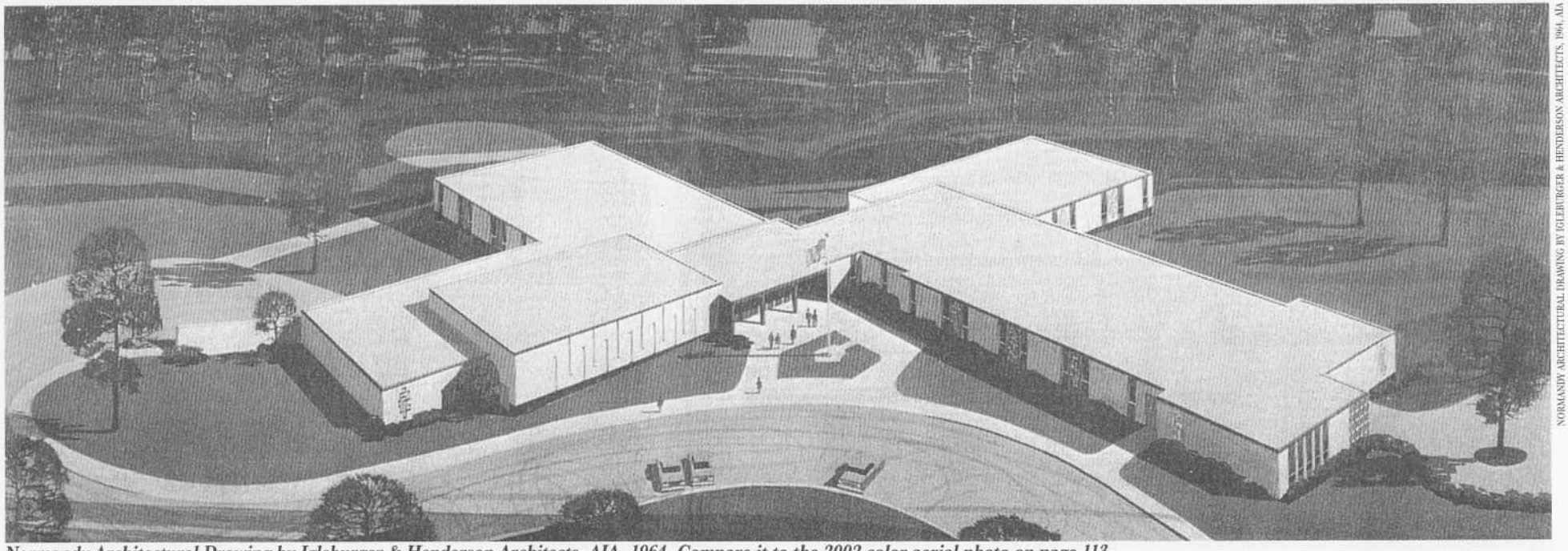
Normandy Elementary, A Great Place to Learn

When the Grant family moved to Washington Township in 1929, the first centralized school facility in Washington Township had been opened just five years. All students, kindergarten through twelfth grade, were located under one roof in the building at 192 West Franklin (now known as Magsig Middle School). The Washington Township School District was part of the Montgomery County educational system. During the next three decades, the population of the Centerville-Washington Township area increased dramatically and with the increase came a need for additional classrooms. A new high school at 99 Virginia Avenue was opened in 1953 followed by the first elementary school, Dr. John Hole Elementary, in 1956. Weller Elementary was built in 1959, and in 1962, two elementary schools opened, Stingley and Driscoll. The school population, less than 500 at the end of World War II, had grown to over 4000 by 1963, and the district employed approximately 300 people.

Soon the district was out of space again. The school board held a meeting in September, 1963, to discuss building a fifth elementary to accommodate the growing number of students. A bond issue was placed on the ballot of the November election to finance the new school and to build additional classrooms at Driscoll Elementary. On November 5, 1963, voters in the township approved the $865,000 bond issue with 2,399 votes for and 1,179 votes against.

Inglebarger and Henderson, Architects, were hired to begin planning the new facility. A fifteen acre site was purchased from the Normandy Farm Development Company at a cost of $48,000, which was $3,200 per acre. The land was adjacent to the contemporarily developed forty-seven acre Grant Park property owned and operated by the Centerville-Washington Park District. The school was named Normandy Elementary because it would be built on the property that was formerly the Normandy Dairy Farm.

The Peterson Construction Company of Wapakoneta was awarded the bid and construction on Normandy Elementary School began in March, 1964, with an ambitious goal of opening by the beginning of the 1964-1965 school year. In June, Mr. Louis F. Mittler, the Administrative Assistant in charge of Instruction and Curriculum, resigned from that position and was appointed as principal of



NORMANDY ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING BY IGLEBURGER & HENDERSON ARCHITECTS, 1964, AIA

Normandy Architectural Drawing by Igleburger & Henderson Architects, AIA, 1964. Compare it to the 2002 color aerial photo on page 113.

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the new school. Mrs. Celia Woodward, formerly the junior high records clerk, became the new secretary of Normandy School.

Construction seemed to be on schedule in August, but when September came, the building was not ready. Normandy students began the 1964-1965 school year in temporary quarters. The kindergarten classes met at C. L. Stingley Elementary. Grades one through four met in the gym and other rooms at Magsig School. The fifth and sixth grade classrooms were in four large converted sheep and hog barns from the Normandy Farms, moved to the Grant Nature Center adjacent to the school. (See inset photo on first page of this chapter.) These buildings later became dormitories and laboratories at the nature center, and are still in use as part of the outdoor education program at Grant Nature Center.

Sixteen classrooms in two wings of the building, plus the office area, were completed in time for a move-in date of October 9, 1964. On that day, students packed up their supplies and books, were bused to their new classrooms, and the school began functioning. Work continued on the construction of the ten classrooms in the remaining wing plus the kitchen and multipurpose room.

The building was completed and a formal dedication was held on March 14, 1965. Principal Louis Mittler pledged to use the building "for the best interest of young people and their educational development." President of the school board, O.H.P. Snyder stated, "When we can build a building for less than $12.00 per square foot, (The cost of the building was $473,794 which was $10.69 per square foot.) we are extremely happy." A program for the dedication described the new building in this way: "In designing Normandy Elementary School, the architects created one of the most attractive, most functional educational buildings in use today…Imaginative use of colors, textures and light give a pleasant, cheerful appearance at all times which is conducive to normal, healthy, well-adjusted students." Special features listed in the dedication program included "Provisions made for future two-way public address system and T.V. facilities to all rooms, including classrooms" and "Festive colors used throughout, and decorative masonry features reflect the youthful atmosphere of a child's world." An unusual feature for an elementary school at the time was the inclusion of shower facilities to support the overnight programs at the Grant Nature Center.



PHOTO: DAYTON DAILY NEWS-10/11/64--TAMASKA: NORMANDY ELEMENTARY COLLECTION

Students enter the newly built Normandy Elementary School carrying their books in bags, October 1964.

Parent involvement was important from the beginning. Parents formed carpools to provide transportation for morning dismissal and afternoon arrival of kindergarten students. The Normandy Parent Teacher Association was organized during the first year, and Mrs. Henry (Barbara) Stout served as president. The PTA is a national organization, but this group was later changed to the Parent Teacher Organization or PTO to provide more local control. Educational concerns during the first two years included discussions of a middle school concept which would group students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade in a separate school with an education program designed to fit their needs. Team teaching was a new concept being considered, and educators were looking at ways to use educational television to teach subjects such as music and French. The district enrolled the 5,000th student in April of 1966. That student was a fourth grader, at Normandy.



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

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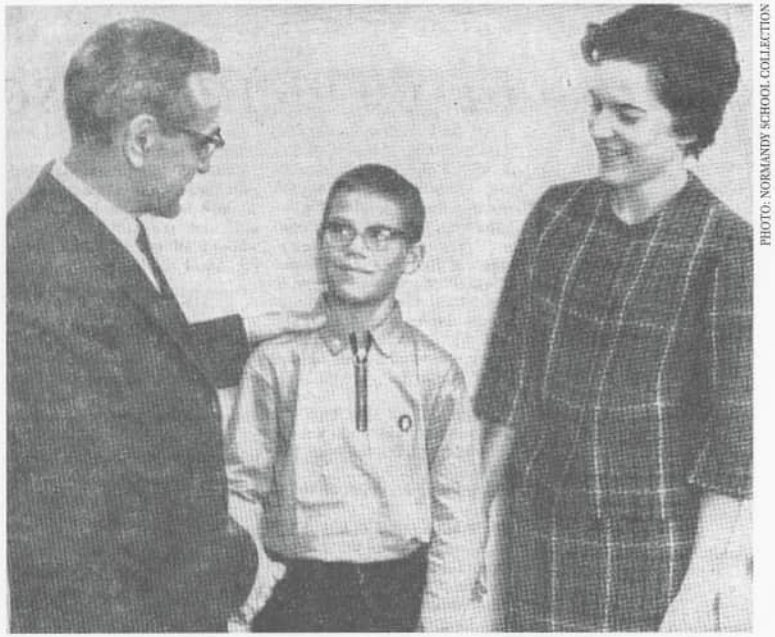


PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Brian Edward Skutt, a 9-year old fourth grader is greeted by Principal, Louis Mittler as the 5,000th student in the Washington Township Schools system in 1965. Also shown is Norma Smith, Skutt's teacher.

At the time of the opening, plans were being made for the building of a bypass highway connecting I-75 and I-70. Parents and educators were concerned that the initial plan would block the entrance to the school and make the school inaccessible. Plans were modified and when I-675 finally opened in 1986, an overpass over the old Normandy Lane (now known as Paragon Road) kept the entrance to the school open.

In the spring of 1966, Mr. Mittler became ill and retired at the end of that school year. Mr. Robert Savage became the second principal at Normandy and provided leadership for the next ten years. The district was just initiating a new movement in education known as Individually Guided Education (IGE). Some of the innovations of IGE programs were nongraded instruction, team teaching, continuous progress, peer-group instruction, and differentiated staffing. Teachers attended special seminars and participated in exchange programs with other schools across the nation that were involved with IGE program. In order to provide a suitable classroom environment for these practices, walls were removed in five sections of the building to provide five double classrooms.

As a means of providing a forum for discussions between parents and school staff, the



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Tree dedication upon Louis Mittler's retirement, June, 1966.

NORMANDY'S FIRST FACULTY & STAFF



Mary Peiffer
Kindergarten



Charlotte Green
First Grade



Betty Probasco
First Grade



Amy Barbin
Second Grade



Doris Ewing
Second Grade



Nancy Elzerman
Third Grade



Donna Wyandt
Third Grade



Joyce Glaze
Fourth Grade



Norma Smith
Fourth Grade



Janet Adams
Fifth Grade



Louis F. Mittler
Principal



Judith Stevens
Fifth Grade



Lena Vanderpool
Sixth Grade



Celia Woodward
Secretary



Sam Finley
Custodian



Lois Whitmore
Sixth Grade

Judith Atkinson, First Grade (not pictured)

ALL PHOTOS: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

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Normandy Interaction Council was formed in December 1971. The purpose was to help open communication within Normandy by "allowing discussion of relevant issues concerning philosophy and the practice of educational goals." In the same year, the student council was formed. Students elected from each unit were able to discuss school policies, procedures, and projects that directly affected the children. Recommendations from the student council were to be given "serious consideration and implemented when practical."

The Centerville-Washington Township community was quickly changing from a small rural area to a fast growing suburban community. In 1969, the school district became the Centerville City School District. In the late '60s the district also changed its organizational plan. The elementary schools contained kindergarten through fifth grades while the sixth grades were moved to three new middle schools that replaced the junior high school. Hithergreen Middle School and Tower Heights Middle Schools were completed in 1966 and Watts Middle School opened in 1969. Centerville High School, operating out of the current Magsig and Cline buildings consolidated freshmen through seniors, grades 9 to 12.

Centerville City Schools continued to attract more families to the area and enrollment continued to increase. When Normandy Elementary opened in 1964, the enrollment was 370 students. At that time the projected capacity for the building was 832 students, which was estimated by filling each of the 26 classrooms with 32 students. In 1969, Normandy School enrollment rose to 796 and at that time, 105 students were redistricted to other Centerville elementary schools. By 1973, Normandy's peak enrollment was 807 students. School officials rented space at nearby Southminster Presbyterian Church for the kindergarten classes. The original design and projections did not consider new programs such as the Instructional Media Center (library), special education classes, a speech and hearing program, as well as art, music and physical education, which required space within the building. Lower teacher-pupil ratios were also seen as being more educationally effective and reduced the number of students in each classroom.

Even with the opening of a seventh elementary school, Village South, in 1970, the district needed more classrooms. With the Normandy enrollment at 745 in the spring of 1976, a plan was devised to operate Normandy on a split session. However, during their June 1976 meeting, the Centerville City School Board of Education decided, as an alternative to split sessions, to open the Cline building on Virginia Avenue as an elementary school. The building had served as the second high school in the district and had been closed when the new Centerville High School complex at 500 East Franklin was opened. After ten years at Normandy, Mr. Savage decided to accept the challenge of organizing the new Cline Elementary school. His experience in organizing Normandy in the early stages provided him the background to build a new school community.

Normandy students celebrated the bicentennial of our country in 1976 with many classroom projects. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade sketched historical scenes that were transferred to fabric and stitched into a quilt. The quilt took 26 mothers 500 hours to make and contained images of historical symbols and famous patriots including George Washington, Betsy Ross, Paul Revere and Independence Hall. The final product was raffled off to a lucky winner. (See Bicentennial student flag in color center section.)



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

School assembly for the 20th Birthday of Normandy Elementary.

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PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Mr. Robert Savage

Mr. Savage retired from the Centerville School district in 1984. He was known as an innovative educator. He enjoyed trying new things and looked at life from different angles, not just from the same side. From 1985 to 1988, he maintained an antiques business with his wife Bette in Waynesville, Ohio. Mr. Savage was 77 years old when lymphoma claimed him on December 30, 2001.

In the fall of 1976, Mr. Jeff Kunst became the principal of Normandy. Under his leadership, Normandy added a weather station with essential instruments students could use to predict and record the weather. Normandy was one of the first three elementary schools in the district to pilot the EDGE (Enrichment and Development for Gifted Education) program. As a real life project, gifted students in the fourth and fifth grades designed a bridge to cross Holes Creek near the Grant Nature Center and presented their plan to the Centerville-Washington Park District Board. A bridge similar to the one the students designed was erected in Grant Park in July, 1981. After the first two years, the gifted program was then expanded to all other schools in the district.

School expansion slowed down and actually declined, resulting in the closing of the Village South Elementary School and Hithergreen Middle School in 1982. Curriculum moved back to textbooks, workbooks and basal readers. Computers were added to the classrooms during the mid-1980s. As the emphasis returned to self-contained classrooms, walls went back up at Normandy, leaving fewer double classrooms. Only the fourth and fifth grade multi-age classrooms remained as part of the former organizational pattern.

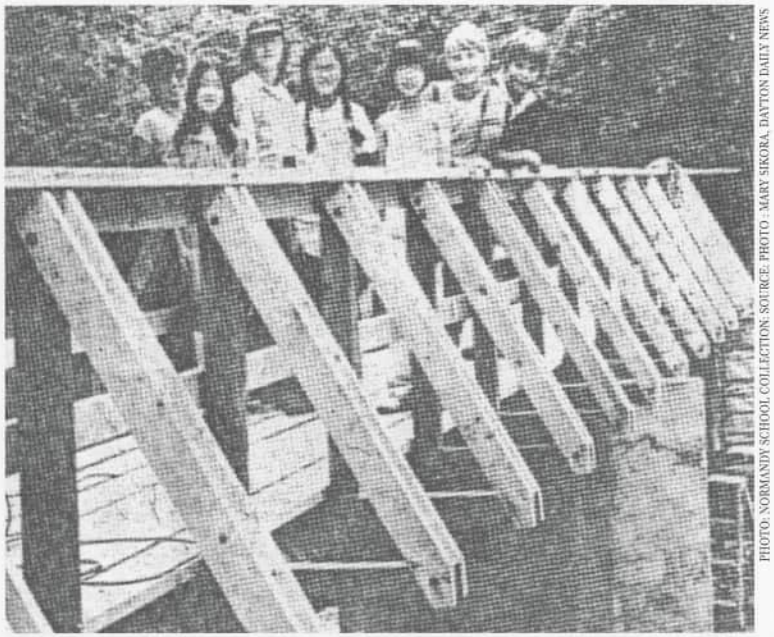


PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION; SOURCE: PHOTO: MARY SIKORA, DAYTON DAILY NEWS

New bridge over Holes Creek in Grant Park (left to right) Gloria Clouse, Eda Kwak, Alicia Alexander, Irene Chow, Pei Pei Chung, Chris Nordstrom and Joe Hoffman.

In 1983, Mr. Kunst left Normandy and Mrs. Margaret Barclay became the principal of Normandy for the next six years. With the help of funding from the PTO, each classroom had an Apple II computer. The new curriculum movement known as "whole language" encouraged teachers to use quality literature in their classroom in creative ways. By connecting and integrating subjects through literature, students could make more connections and discoveries. The Artist in Residency program exposed Normandy students to a variety of artists including a sculptor, dancers, and an actor portraying Shakespeare. Great Books groups were led by teachers and parents and introduced the students to other classics.

One of the events students enjoyed was a balloon launch in the spring. Attached to each balloon was information about the date and time of the launch as well as the students' names and school address. Finders were asked to write back to the student to let them know the details of where the balloon was found. Students were able to track the balloons as far as the eastern coast of the United States. (See photo on first page of this chapter.)

In the spring of 1989, the first grade teachers, Mrs. Deb Russell, Mrs. Esther Walter, and Mrs. Jayne Strominger, applied for a grant from the Alliance for Education in Montgomery County. Their project was to create an integrated unit for first graders, using a teddy bear theme. As a result of the project the students would raise funds to purchase teddy bears that could be used by policemen and firemen to comfort children in stressful situations. The new mascot was given the name Norman D. Bear. The concept



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION, SOURCE: DAYTON DAILY NEWS, SKIP PETERSON

Montgomery County sheriff's deputies apprehend Norman D. and Norma Dee Bears at the school.

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was well received and Norman D. Bear has become standard equipment with the Centerville Police Department, the Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies, and the Washington Township Fire Department. Over 3000 Norman D. Bears and Norma Dee Bears have comforted children in the Centerville area supported through the donations of school groups, area service organizations and private individuals. (See additional photos in the color pages of this book.)

In August 1989, when Mrs. Barclay left Normandy to become the principal at Magsig Middle School, Mrs. Gloria Clouse became the fifth principal at Normandy. Although Mrs. Clouse had been a special education teacher at the high school, and the elementary gifted specialist for the district, this was her first assignment as an administrator.

The district adopted a new math program that emphasized "hands-on" learning. Math manipulatives such as cuisenaire rods, pattern blocks, math games, etc. were required to teach the basic math concepts. Normandy Elementary applied for and received a $10,000 Incentive grant from the Ohio Department of Education. A part of the grant was for an Outdoor Math lab that allowed teachers to plan and implement math lessons using the adjacent Grant Park facilities. Parent involvement was a key component in the grant. Parent volunteers helped small groups of children discover mathematical relationship and applications in an outdoor setting.



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Four of Normandy Elementary's five principals: from a photo taken at the 25th anniversary celebration, 1989. (Left to right) Gloria Clouse, Robert Savage, Margaret Barclay, and Jeff Kunst.

In the fall of 1991, Normandy Elementary school applied for recognition as a Blue Ribbon School. The application process required the teachers, parents, students, and administrators to meet certain standards and to explain the total educational program in the school. As a result, Normandy was one of 17 schools from the State of Ohio to be nominated for the national award. After a site visit and further evaluation at the national level, Normandy became one of 263 schools across the nation to be named "A National School of Excellence". Mrs. Gloria Clouse, Mrs. Laura Cooke, and Mrs. Esther Walter represented Normandy in Washington and received the award in May, 1993, from newly-elected President Clinton, becoming the first Blue Ribbon School in Centerville. Since that time, Centerville Kindergarten Village, Weller Elementary, Tower Heights Middle School, and Centerville High School have received recognition as Blue Ribbon Schools.



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Normandy cited as a Blue Ribbon School, May 1993, (left to right) State Representative Bob Corbin, Ohio Governor George Voinovich, Student Neha Shah, Centerville School Superintendent Frank DePalma and Principal Gloria Clouse.

The 1990s brought Centerville City Schools and Normandy into the age of technology. Through careful planning and state and local initiatives, each student had access to technology in the classroom. Each first grade classroom had two computers, and all classrooms in grades two through five were equipped with five computers. Computers were linked within the school and also to all other computers in the district. The Internet was accessible from all computers as was the district Intranet.

The Normandy School web site can be found at [*http://www.centerville.k12.oh.us*]. Click on Schools, then on Normandy Elementary to visit the website.

In 1994, the State of Ohio initiated the Fourth Grade Proficiency Test which became a major influence on the curriculum. The State of Ohio developed a model curriculum in five subject areas, writing, reading, mathematics, citizenship and science. Centerville City Schools developed a Graded Course of Learning which was aligned with the state curriculum. Teacher representatives from each grade level and each school worked together to write and coordinate the curriculum in each area. In addition, Centerville City Schools developed an exemplary inservice program and received an Ohio's Best Practices Award in 1999 for professional development. Teachers had opportunities to learn new skills and explore new ideas through a wide variety of classes offered during the summer and the school year.

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The district also received the distinction of being an "Effective School District" for three school years from 1999 to 2002 as a result of meeting at least 26 of 27 standards set by the state. Results of the proficiency tests are published annually and current scores can be accessed at the Ohio Department of Education web site at *http://www.ode.state.oh.us.*

The Normandy building underwent some significant changes in the 1990s. Enrollment steadily increased and along with the addition of new programs such as Title I reading, Reading Intervention, English as a second language tutors, and special education resource rooms, classrooms began to fill up again. In contrast to the 32:1 pupil-teacher ratios projected when the school opened, the classrooms now reflect a district move to reduce the ratios to closer to 24:1. In 1991, the district reopened the closed Village South school on Marshall Road as the Centerville Kindergarten Village. All kindergarten students in the district attended the new school which offered more options to meet the needs of the youngest students. Young 5's classes were developmentally appropriate for students with summer birthdays, full day Extended Day classes for "at-risk" students were available, and Kinderplus classes provided some students a transition year from kindergarten to first grade. Normandy then became a first through fifth grade school.

In 1995, a new addition was planned for the Normandy building. Three classrooms and a gymnasium were added to the rear of the building. The classrooms were designed as an art room, a music room, and a large Instructional Media Center. Renovations to the existing classrooms included new storage cabinets and coat racks, new carpeting, and other improvements throughout the building. The new gymnasium provided a space designated for physical education classes and a facility for school-wide assemblies and community activities.

In the year 2001, teachers explored new research on how the brain learns and used this information to find the best ways to teach children. A team of Normandy teachers attended the Early Learning Literacy Initiative at the Ohio State University and brought back new ideas to improve reading scores. All teachers learn assessment tools and instructional skills to help them work with each child at the optimum level for his or her individual learning style. Teachers work and plan together in grade level teams and vertical teams to coordinate curriculum throughout the school.

Dynamic changes continue to be made at Normandy. During the 2000-2001 school years, home building continued in the district, and the number of students at Normandy continued to climb. In the spring of 2001, construction began on a 5,225 square-foot addition on the east side of the building. The additional space included four classrooms, four smaller program rooms, restrooms and two renovated classrooms. Normandy's enrollment was 490 at the beginning of the 2001-2002 school



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Fine arts wing under construction 1995.

year. Teachers and students moved into the new wing in December 2001. The additional space will provide enough space for five teachers per grade level as well as all the additional services.

Parents, teachers and most importantly, students find that *Normandy is a great place to learn.*

* * *

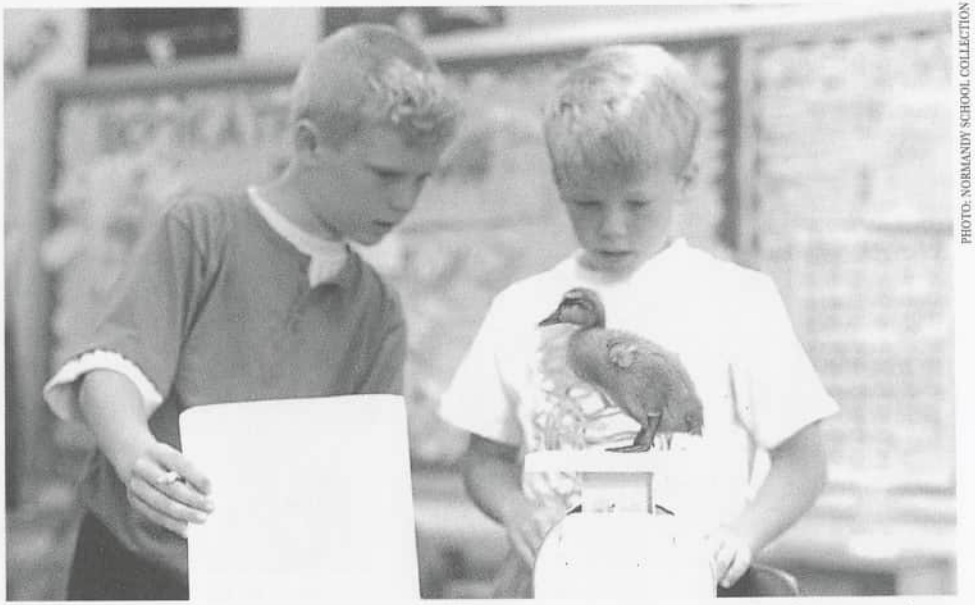


PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Andrew Markworth and Jason Bell check the weight of a duckling as part of a classroom science experiment.

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Additional Photographs



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

State Representative Bob Corbin poses with fifth grade students who represented presidential candidates in a debate. (Left to right) Melissa Fried, Carrie DePalma, Joe Chillinsky, Katie Tippett, Neha Shah, Raj Loganathan, November, 1991.



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Kristin Knapp visits Florence Weber as a part of the third grade "Adopt a Grandparent" program.



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Mayor Shirley Heintz presents trees to Ross Beyerle and Reina Takahashi as part of the annual Arbor Day program. All third grade students receive a tree to plant.



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

A knight welcomes students to the Normandy Castle as a culmination of their study of Knight, Castles and Dragons.



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Students play at recess on new playground equipment purchased and installed with the help of the Normandy PTO.

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PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Janet Thobaben visits a third grade class as part of the speaker program of the Centerville Historical Society.



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

The staff of Normandy Elementary School, 1992-1993. Front row: Pat Smith, Jackie Rita, Anna Marie Staudenmaier, Joanna Clay, Gloria Clouse, Kristina Moore, Dianne Buehrle, Bobbie Goldman, Meg Scharrer, Kathy Becker. Second row: Susan Reynolds, Laura Cooke, Jan Taylor, Diane Colvin, Lois Tischer, Carol Neighbor, Denise Magill, Peggy Satzger, Nancy Jeanmougin, Judy Mack, Shirley Walsh. Third row: Jim Sparks, George Zubrick, Barbara Smith, Jayne Strominger, Gay Amos, Debbie Russell, Kay Kloppenburg, Esther Walter, Dave Diller.

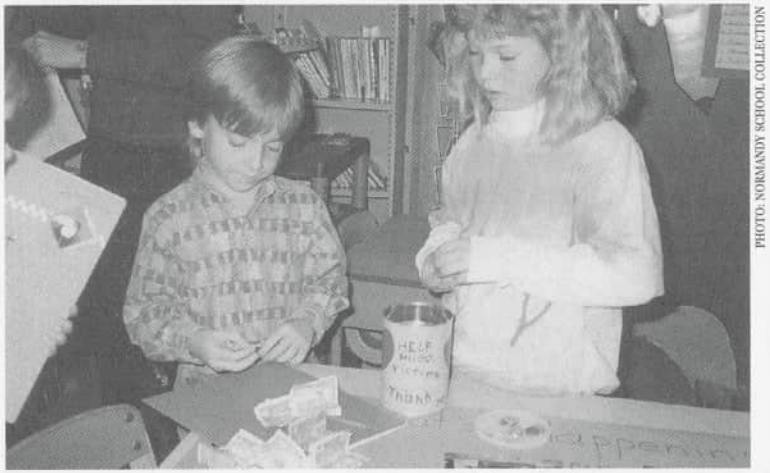


PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Student council members Abraham Little and Melissa Keilholtz count money collected for a school in South Carolina struck by Hurricane Hugo representing one of the many service projects to which Normandy students have contributed.

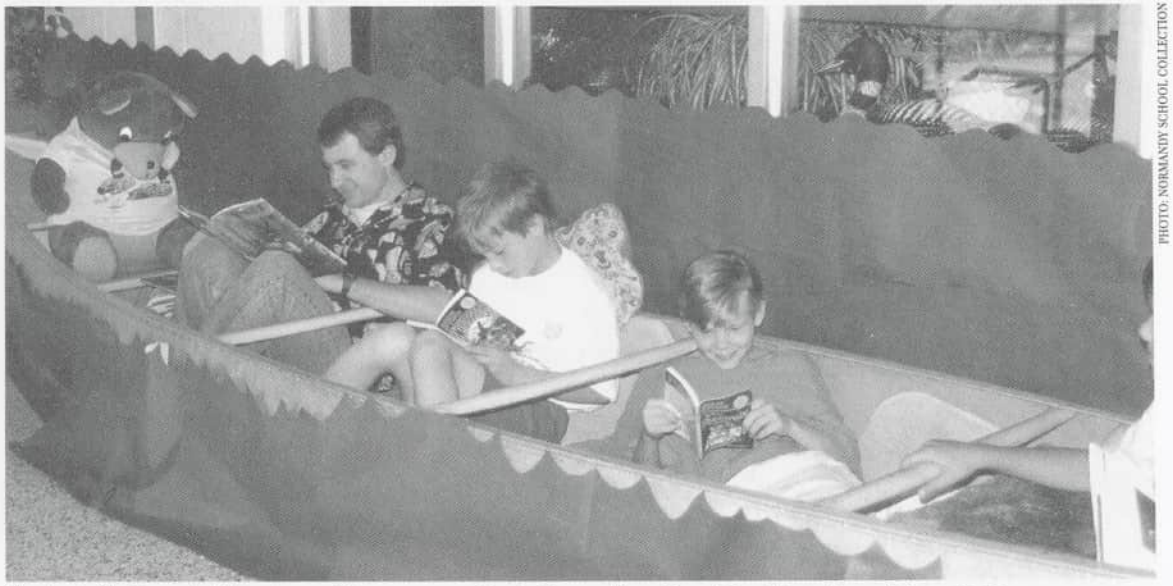


PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Students find a quiet time to read in a canoe with visiting author, Ron Hirschi, author of Loon Lake.

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PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Kathy Landess, parent volunteer, works with a group of third grade students in an outdoor math lab near the Chimneys of the former Grant lodge. The Outdoor math Labs were part of a $10,000 math grant from the State of Ohio.



PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Diane Colvin, third grade teacher, watches as her students play math games.

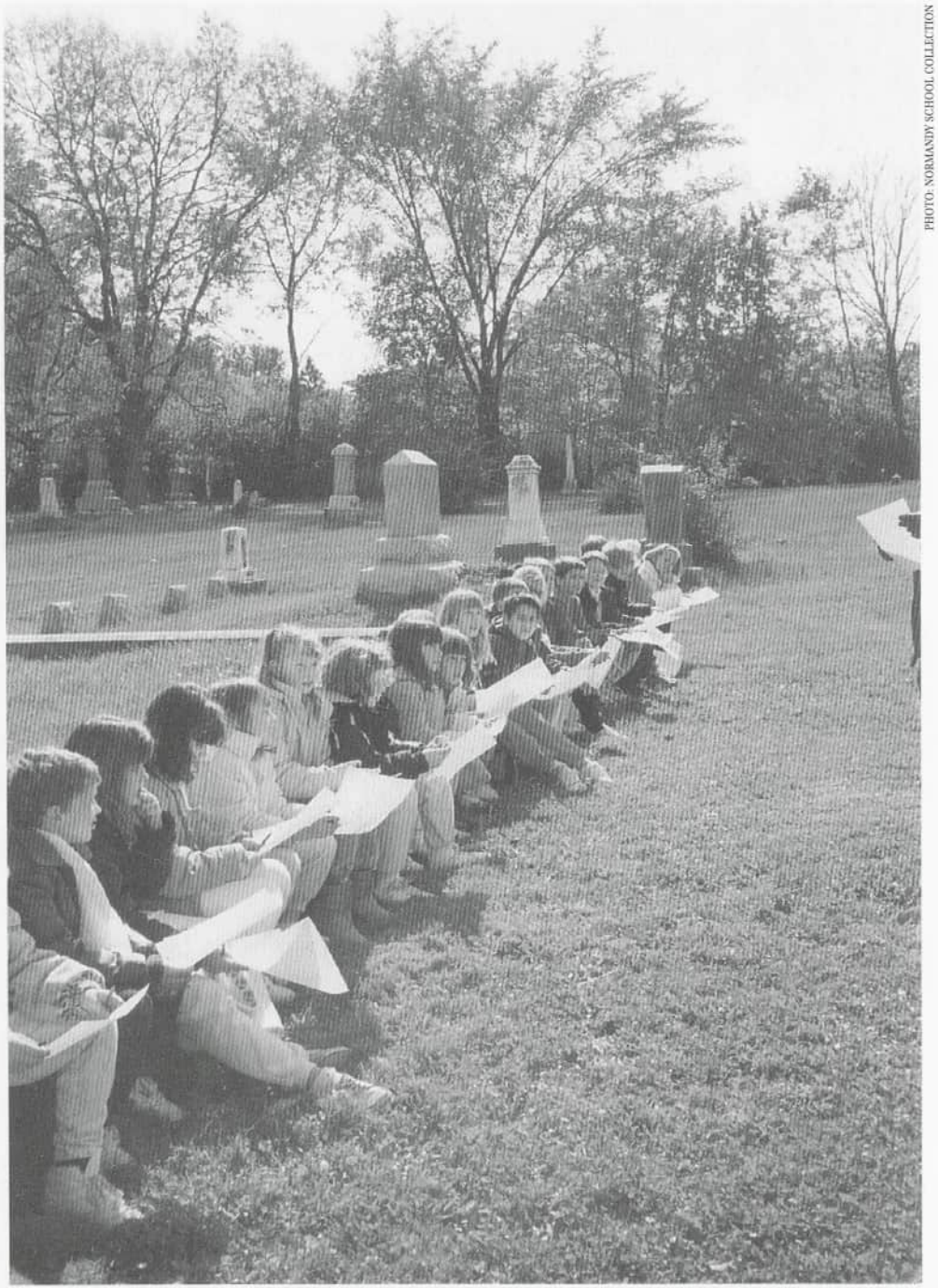


PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

Normandy students visit the old Centerville cemetery as a part of their study of local history on a walking tour of Centerville.

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PHOTO: NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLECTION

A celebration of the Richard Grant Legacy during School Open House. (Left to right) The Elliotts: Celia with her husband, Nevin; his mother, Laura; and her other son, Richard Elliott. Laura's husband, Russell Elliott, spent more than 30 years as manager of the farm. The sons grew up on the farm and worked in several different capacities.

SEE ADDITIONAL PHOTOS
IN THE COLOR CENTER SECTION.

NORMANDY WINNERS OF THE CENTERVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

Teacher of the Year Award for Centerville Schools:

Molly Knight	Esther Walter

Excellence in Education Award:

Mary Rose Back	1987	Margaret Barclay	1988
Esther Walter	1989	Laura Cooke	1990
Gay Amos	1991	Betty Stewart	1992
Kay Kloppenburg	1993	Judy Mack	1994
Jayne Strominger	1995	Diane Colvin	1996
Corey Neal	1997	Jackie Rita	1998
Janice Klinger	1999	Lois Tischer	2000
Rebecca O'Neil	2001	Deb Russell	2002

Teachers recognized by the Alliance for Education:

Excellence in Teaching Award:

Janet Taylor	Molly Knight
Judy Mack	Diane Colvin
Shirley Walsh	Bobbie Goldman

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A Walking Tour of the Grant Mansion and Grounds

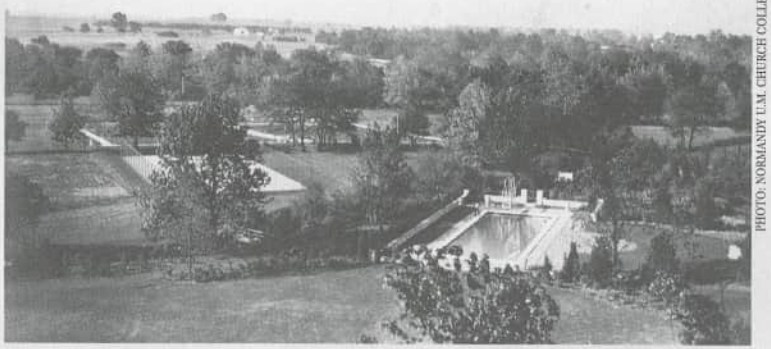


PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

PHOTO COMPOSITE: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

"Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house,
and the place where Thy honor dwelleth"

— Psalm 26:8

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A Walking Tour of Normandy Church, the Former Grant Mansion



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Above, Normandy United Methodist Church from Alex-Bell Road on the north; the new sanctuary dominates the right portion of the view.

Below, the oldest portion of the building was the original Grant mansion.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

A complex labyrinth of reinforced concrete walls formed the basement (lower level) of the house and provided the necessary solidity as a foundation for the two upper floors and the slate tiled attic, circa 1928.

General Information

Even though the Grants could not decide what style of architecture they wanted for their mansion, they wanted the highest quality construction available, which was a reflection of Richard Grant's constant demand for quality in business. In addition, Laura Grant had collected many antique pieces of furniture and wanted a home that was compatible with her collection. To accomplish their goals, the Grants commissioned the New York architectural firm of Peabody, Wilson & Brown who planned an English Manor style structure.

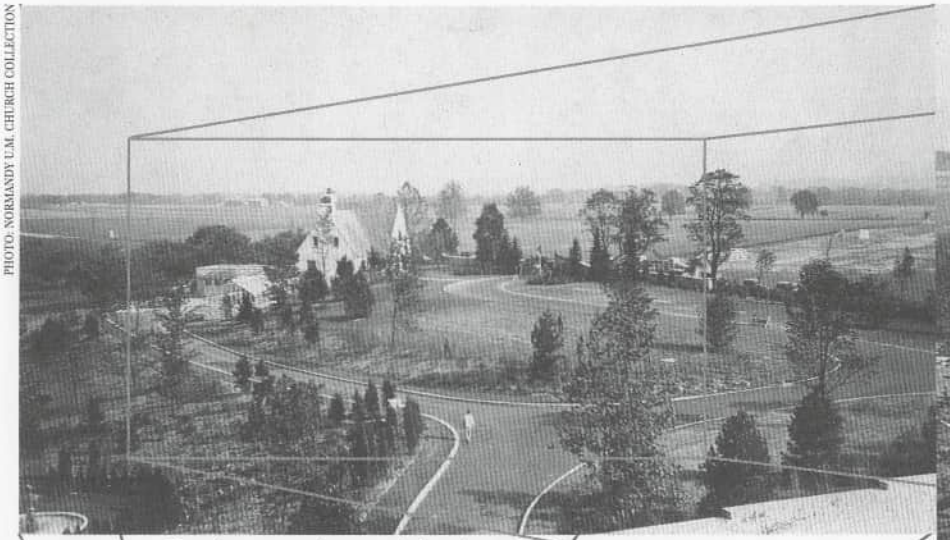
They also hired Samuel D. Zehrung, noted local landscape architect. The vastness of the Grants' property with its accompanying springs and rolling hillsides provided Samuel Zehrung a chance to be highly creative. Considered the most talented landscaper in Dayton, he had studied at Amherst College and had earned a master's degree in landscape architecture from Harvard. Zehrung had designed the Oakwood gardens of the Pattersons, the Rikes, and the Talbotts along with those of the Veritys of Middletown.

Workmen broke ground in 1927 and construction of the Grant mansion continued into the Great Depression with completion in 1930. Total construction cost was $980,000. All building was done by hand, utilizing expert carpenters so that everything fit perfectly. Nearly 350 men worked for almost three years to complete the mansion. Today this thirty-eight-room home, along with its eleven fireplaces, would be worth many times that amount.

The actual interior decorating was done by the Grants themselves since they could not come to an agreement with the New York decorator they hired. The Grants, who wanted the house to look as if it had been lived in, not uncomfortably new, had spent eight years

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PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION



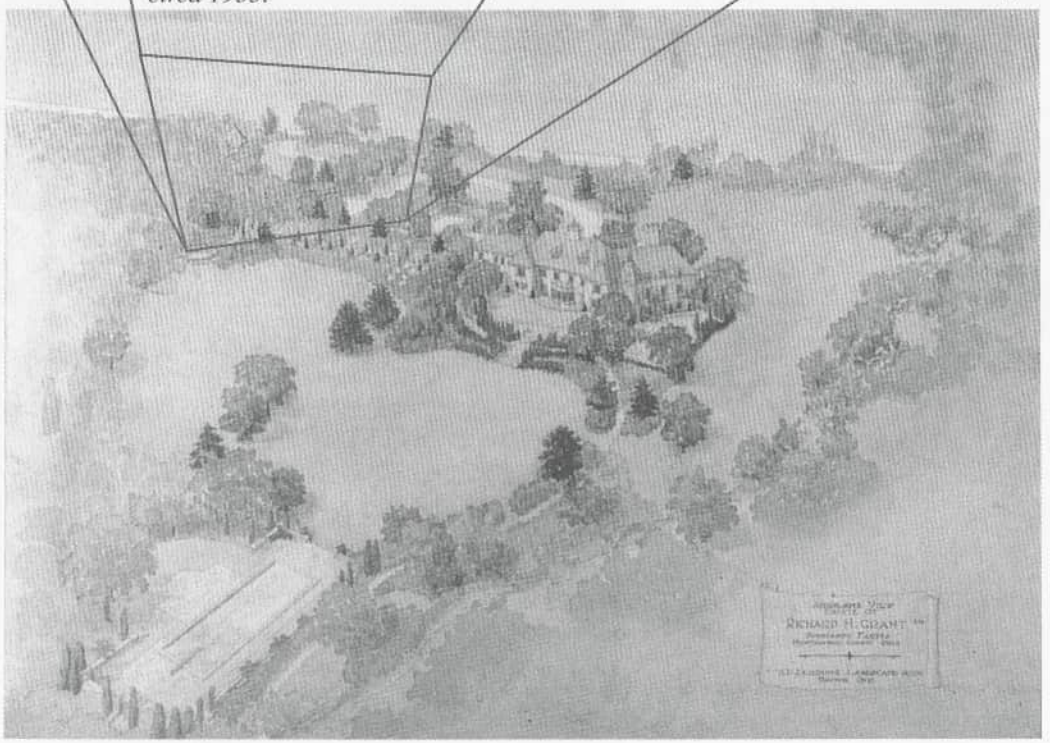
Gatehouse and gate with privacy hedges and cars out front. Polo field across Alex-Bell Road, circa 1935.

PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION



Detail of Gatehouse. Note greenhouse and seven car garage attached behind the gatehouse.

DRAWING: SAMUEL D. ZEHRUNG—NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION—PHOTO: MOORE GRAPHICS



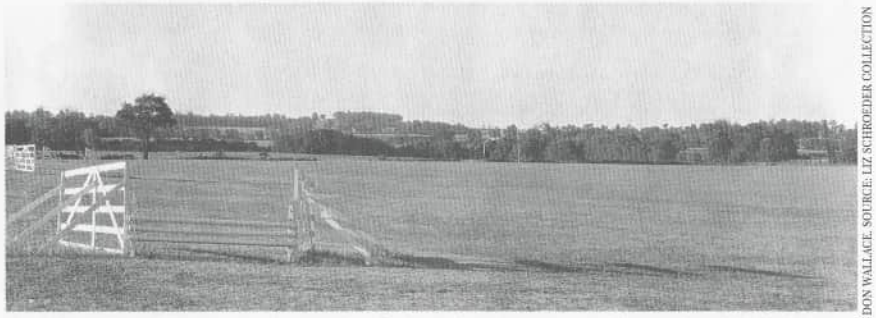
Samuel Zehrung's landscape design. (See color version on page 105.)

collecting furniture from throughout Europe and found some lovely, unusual antique pieces. In a way, the furniture had dictated the style of the house.

The architects chose a gravelly sloping hill adjacent to a small creek to the south of Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road, slightly west of Bookwalter Road (later to be known as Normandy Lane). After the purchase of six farms, the whole estate totaled some 780 acres which included the later purchase of the nearby Reynolds Estate. Grant's estate extended from Normandy Lane to McEwen Road, plus some land north of Alex-Bell Road and south down Normandy Lane.

Zehrung designed a polo field on the north side of Alex-Bell Road across

PHOTO BY DON WALLACE. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION



The polo field directly to the north of the main gate across Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road. It was carefully graded and well drained. The distant farms and rolling hills formed a picturesque background, circa 1931.

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from the mansion for Richard Grant Jr. There were also plans for an outdoor theater, as well as an executive golf course, but these were never completed. Zehrung reported that Grant had come to him in 1929 and said, "Sam, I lost a million dollars in the stock market today, so forget the theater and the golf course."

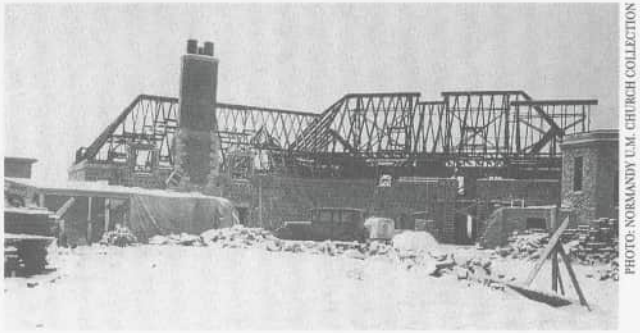


PHOTO: NORMANDY V.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Mansion under construction from the north. The steel I-beam construction later supported the heavy slate roof placed over poured concrete, circa 1929.

At one time during those years of national financial strain, Mrs. Grant became very upset upon learning that the installed lead drainpipes had cost $17,000, which was comparable to the cost of the entire Oakwood home they were leaving. However, Grant would have nothing less than the best for their home. And those lead drainpipes are still in use over 70 years later.

EXTERIOR

The house had a basic rectangular shape with two rectangular wings extending at angles of 45° toward Alex-Bell Road to the north. The focal point of the architecture was a large octagonal tower, which housed the formal spiral staircase on the west end of the main rectangle. A square tower plus many clay-potted chimneys and a loggia blend the angled wings into the main body of the house. The house has three stories plus an attic. A three-car garage was on the west end of the house at the ground level outside the butler's apartment. A swimming pool and bathhouse were down the hill south of the mansion.



PHOTO: RICHARD GRANT, JR. COLLECTION

Construction continued as the tower point steel frame was added and the stone facing was applied, circa 1929. Worker on left roof top beam shows scale.

The mansion was constructed in the English Manor style, consisting of stucco walls trimmed with stone around the entrance and foundations. Prior to the controls of the progressive national income tax, wealth accumulation had led to the growth of many great fortunes, and great houses, similar to the Grants, were built on Long Island and in many other areas of the country.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

This detail shows the hand made lead gutters and downspouts, the curved trim, and a two-bulbed, screened light fixture which bathed the front facade with light.

The creation of an expansive hip roof with steep angles in conjunction with the angling of the wings inward to the driveway turnaround, the relatively small front windows, and the lowering of the main floor a few feet below exterior ground level—all gave the illusion that the home was smaller than it actually was.

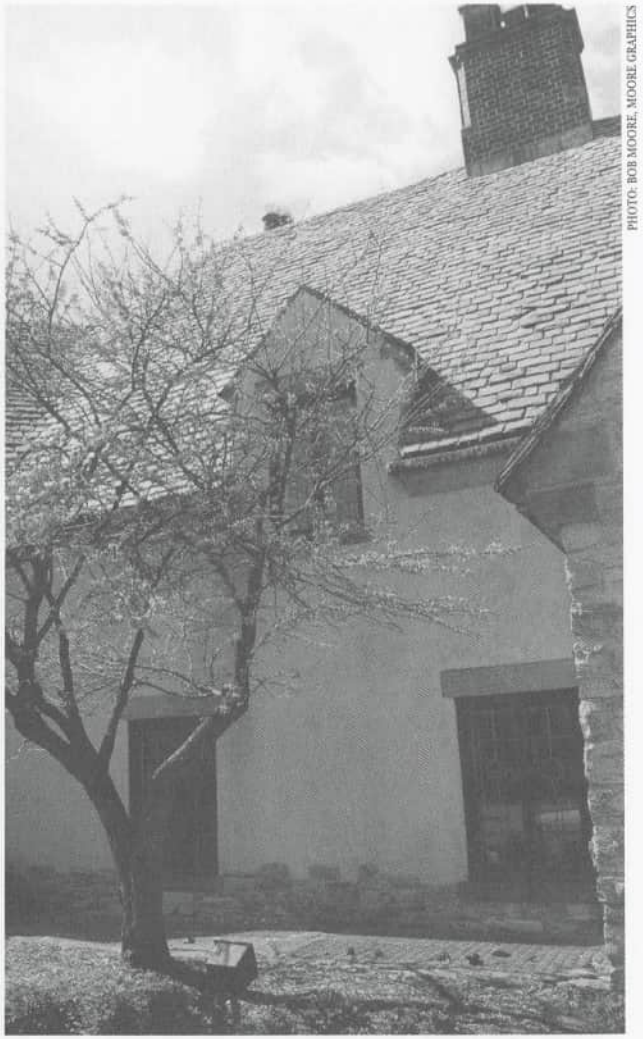


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Coupled with the drop off of the land to the rear (south) of the house and the more abbreviated roof, the back of the house displayed its full three floors, exposing the larger windows of the outer arc to the prevailing sunlight and overlooking the hillside.

Because Grant admired stability and endurance, his mansion was built for the ages. The construction methods of the building mirrored that of many skyscrapers built in cities such as the Keith Building in

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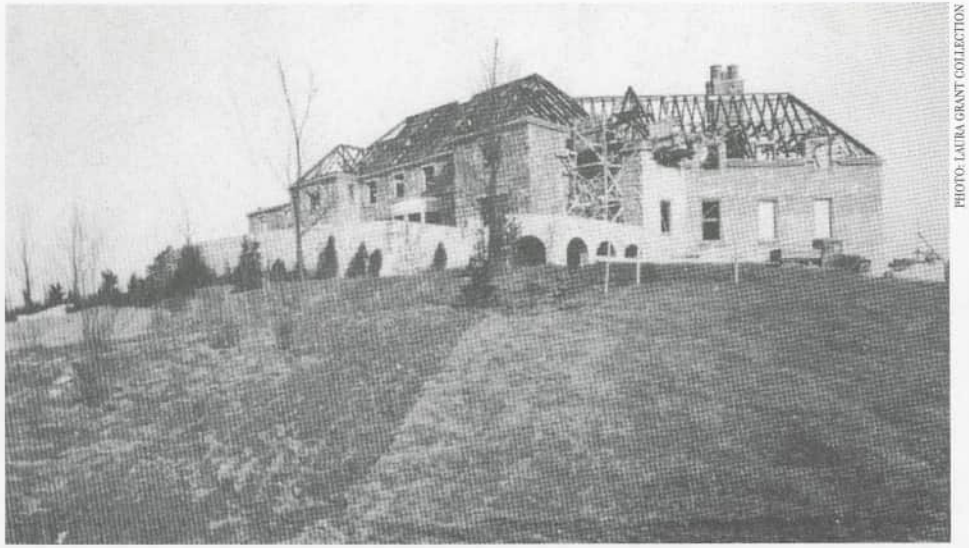


PHOTO: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION

Southeast face of Normandy mansion during construction showing steel roofing supports and concrete walls prior to application of stone facade, circa 1929.



PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The mansion as seen from the southeast showed the application of the natural stone facade and the beginnings of the land-scaping during construction, circa 1930.



PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

A view of the construction from the northeast, approximately at the corner of Alex-Bell Road and Bookwalter Road (soon to become Normandy Lane). This picture shows the addition of the chimneys and the servants' wing to the right, as well as the flat top of the three-car garage on the far right, circa 1929.

Dayton. A photograph of the house under construction reveals the steel framework. In the attic, ten-inch steel I-beams support the roof which is six-inch concrete covered by 1-1/2 inch thick natural slate. The outer walls were eighteen-inch concrete over steel. The floors throughout were eight-inch concrete and most have two-inch pegged oak flooring that is actually two layers of one-inch oak laid across each other. This provided some "give," alleviating some of the normal discomfort associated with walking on concrete floors.

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Gate

The ornate gates that once graced the entrance to Normandy Farms were crafted by a team of European blacksmiths. Grant's initials still can be seen at the top of the gates when closed.

A wall-high line of shrubbery continued from the gate east on Alex-Bell Road to the intersection of Normandy Lane, providing the Grants' privacy.

Gatehouse Area

The gatehouse, one of the first places to have central air conditioning, was originally two apartments for the servants. The garage doors of the seven-car garage, located under the gatehouse, were automatic and operated by a key. One of the apple orchards was located on the west side of the gatehouse. In the back of the gatehouse was a greenhouse, which had a very sophisticated irrigation system and where fresh flowers were grown to decorate the dining room and main hallways. For many years during the Grants' tenure in the mansion, Lester Samples, chauffeur and gardener, lived in the gatehouse. The Reverend Milford Ater, his wife Millie, and their daughter Becky lived in the house from the mid-1950s until the end of his tenure as pastor of the church.

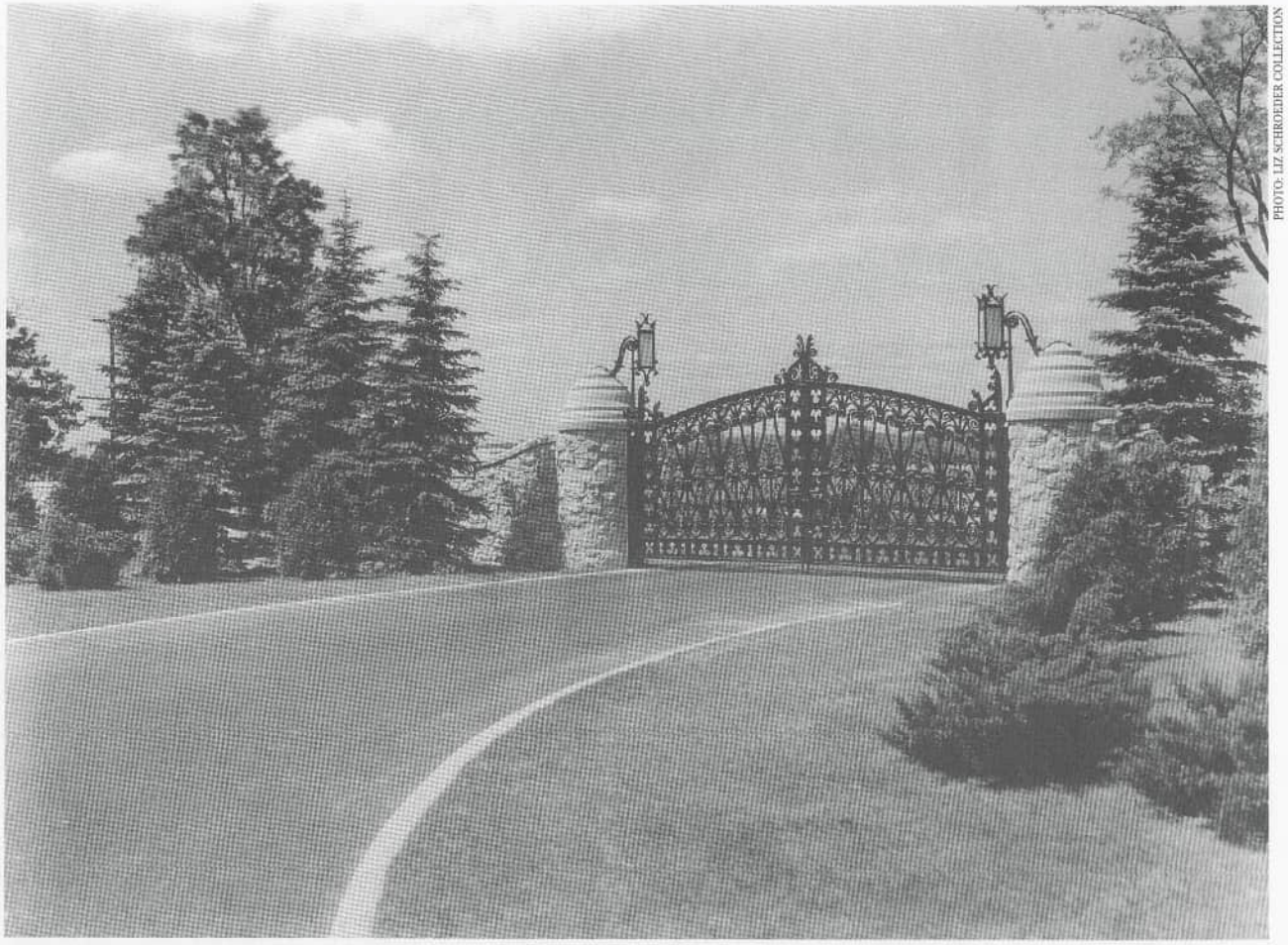


PHOTO: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Above, Front Gate with original landscaping, circa 1933. The initials RHG are at the center top.

Below, Gate and Gatehouse as they appeared in 2001. Photos on page 135 of this chapter show the original greenhouse and 7-car garage.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

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PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The gatehouse mirrors the construction style of the main house on a smaller scale. Rev. Ater and his family lived here from the late 1950s until the early 1970s.

Pump House

The pump house built on the north side of Alex-Bell Road was over a very productive spring that fed a small creek along the east side of the property. As with the gatehouse, the pump house reflected the same construction design including the slate roof. The pump house was torn down in 1988. *(See map on page 107 in the color pages section.)*

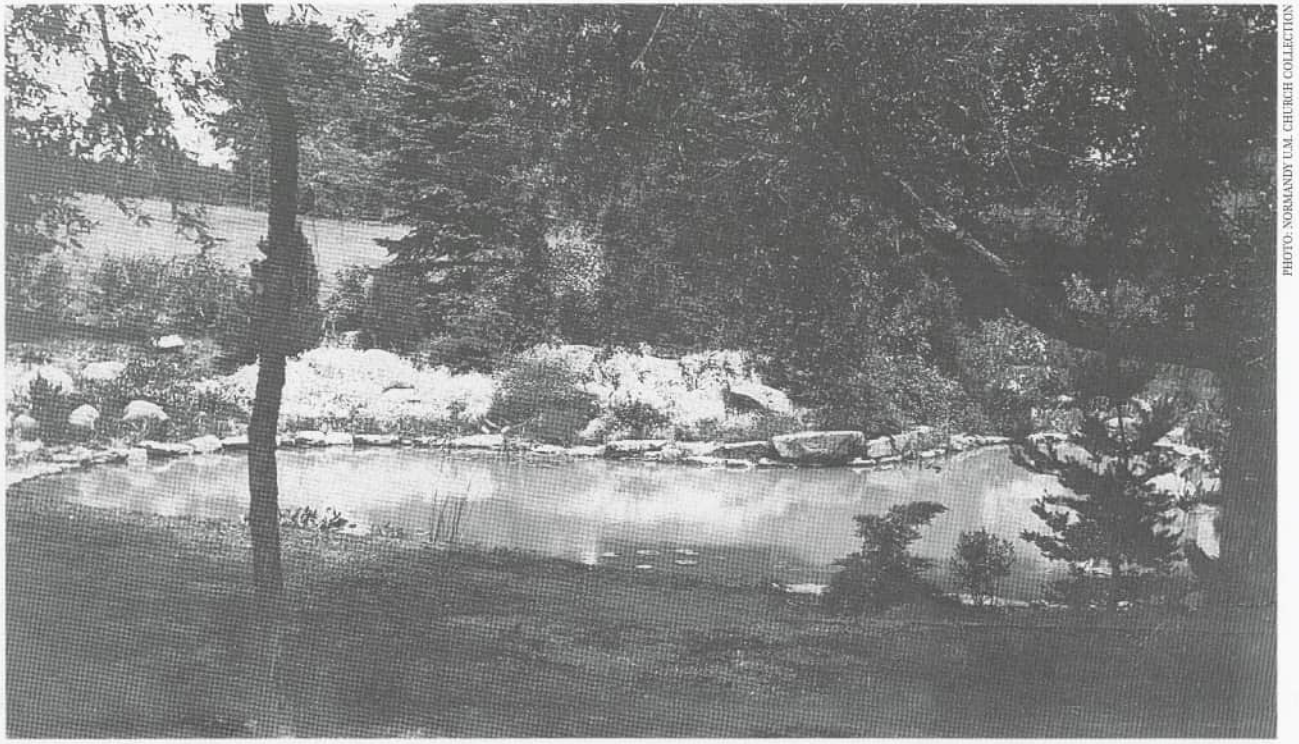


PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The upper pond looking from the west. These ponds were added by the landscaper, Zehrung, to add elegance to an otherwise lackluster lawn. A springhouse built at the corner of Normandy Lane at Alex-Bell supplied the water and two dams in the pond system controlled flow, circa 1945.

Ponds and Landscaping (East Lawn)

For the stream below the spring, Zehrung designed two dams to create two ponds to use when the Grants entertained on the lawn. Hundreds of varieties of trees and shrubs graced the property, many of which still flourish. A network of several cisterns situated around the house and an automatic sprinkler system provided for the extensive watering needs. A well provided drinking water to the mansion while the cistern's water was used for bathing and showering. Grant always needed more water for the house and the dairy farm, which is why, in 1938, he supported the village's new water works which brought water and fire plugs to his property down Normandy Lane.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

East lawn descending to the stream, 2001.

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PHOTO: FRANK M. BETZ, DAYTON, OHIO. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

From the north looking south (toward tennis courts) from the upper reflecting pond the water flows gently through a stone channel to the lower reflecting pond, circa 1931.

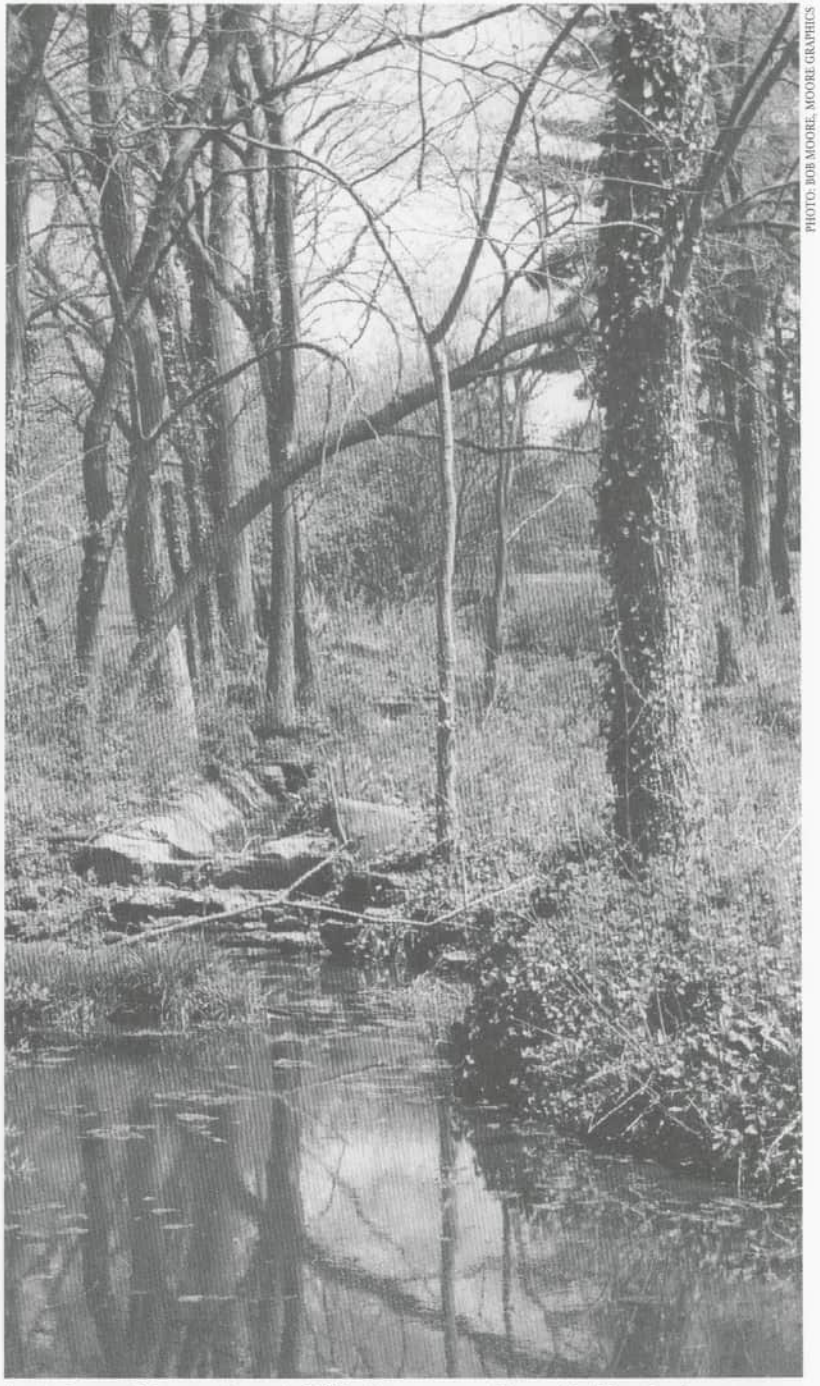


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

At the base of the east lawn in 2001, the stream still provided lovely views even as time returned it to its more natural state.

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PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

From the south looking northeast (toward Alex-Bell) from the lower reflecting pond along the pathway past the cascades to the upper reflecting pond. These formed the border of the east lawn, circa 1945.

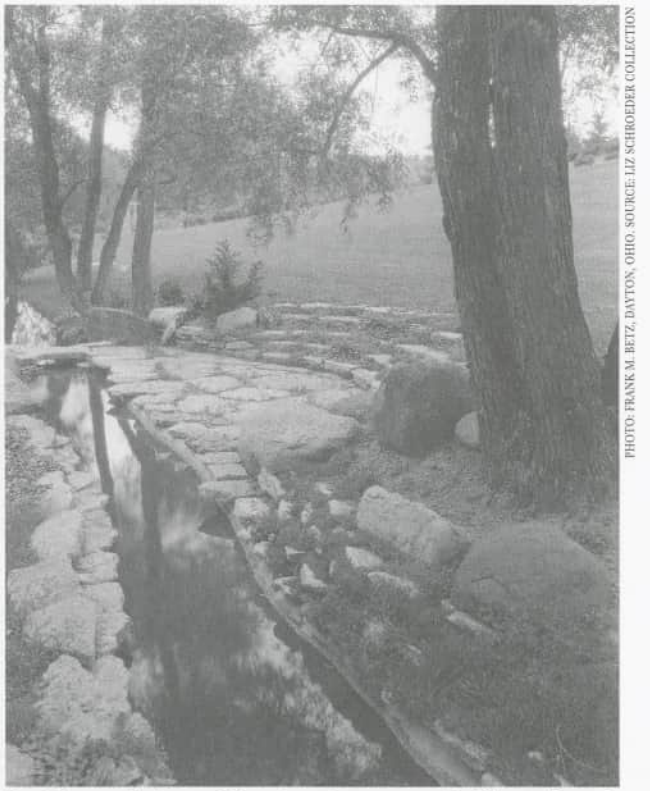


PHOTO: FRANK M. BETZ, DAYTON, OHIO. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Looking south toward the stone terraces and bridges allowed guests access to a various views of the stream, 1931.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

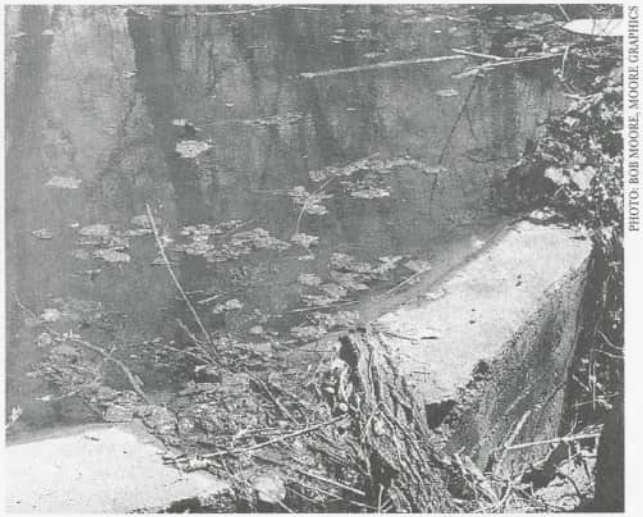


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

In 2001 throughout the lower edge of the east lawn were the remnants of the former stone channels which guided the stream from the corner of Normandy Lane (now Paragon Road) and Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road southward toward Holes Creek near the Grant cabin.

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PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

A stone wall, approximately 50 feet long, terminated at the site of the former flagpole. It provided access to the exterior stairs that led around the east wing to the lower terrace (sometimes called the cloisters). A wrought iron gate originally served as the passage through the taller portion of the wall. A dedicated fire hydrant for the mansion was housed in a small stone box near the flagpole stand on the backside of the wall.

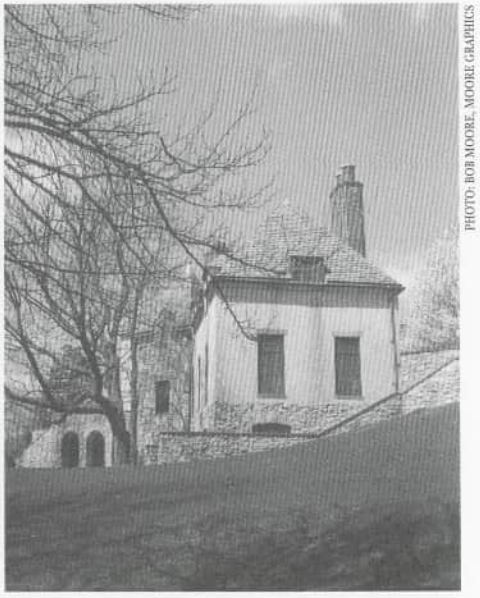


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PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



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Looking south past The Cloisters, 1931.

SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

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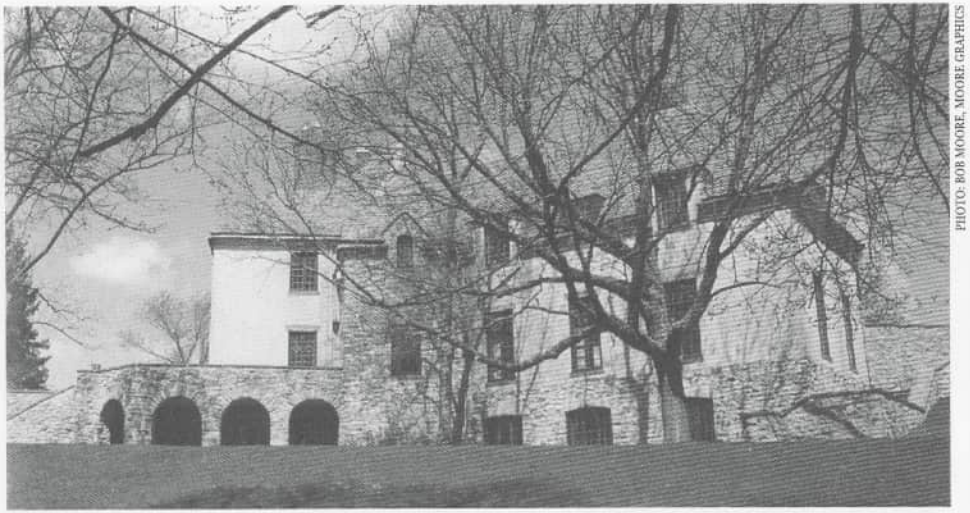


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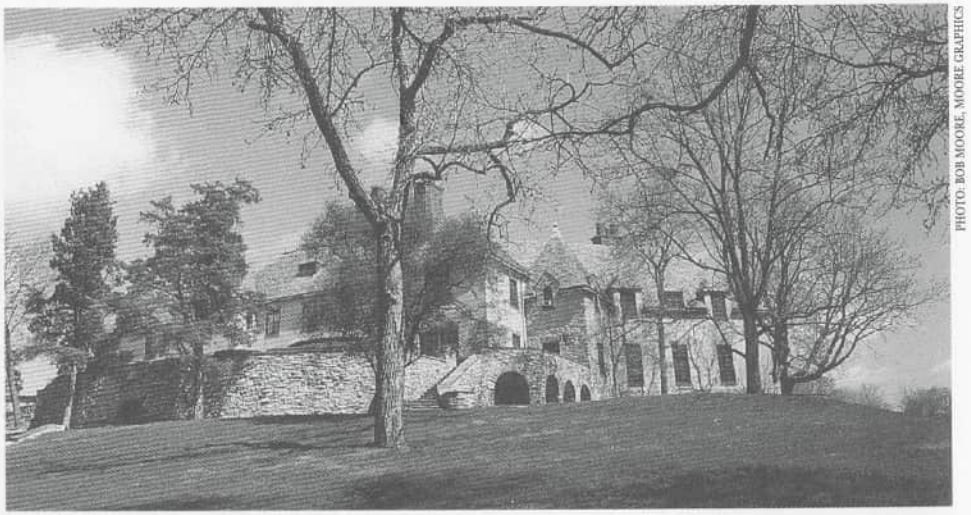


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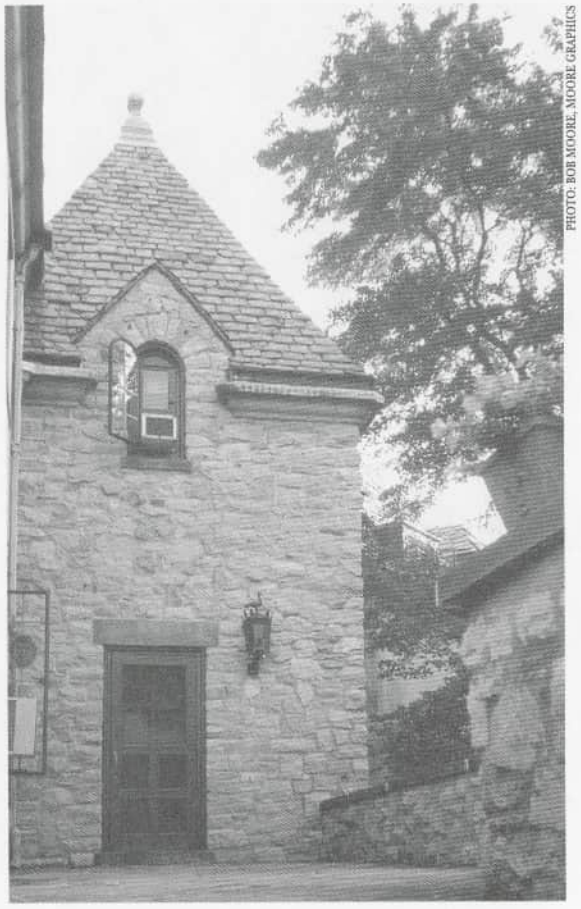


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

***Above,** views from the east and southeast lower lawn showed the exposure of all three floors to the morning and midday sun.*

***Left,** the east tower provided access to the upper terrace from the stairwell adjacent to the library. Mrs. Grant's bathroom was on the top floor above the stairwell.*

***Right and far right,** looking east, two sets of stairs on either side of the upper south terrace led guests down to a single set of stairs approaching the pool.*



SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

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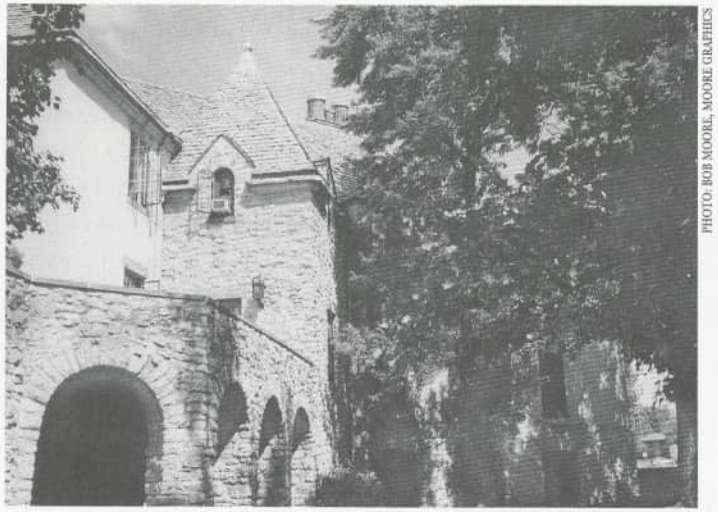


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Right, several smaller gardens of wildflowers were nestled throughout the east and south lawn providing those out for a walk with a place for a brief respite, circa 1933.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

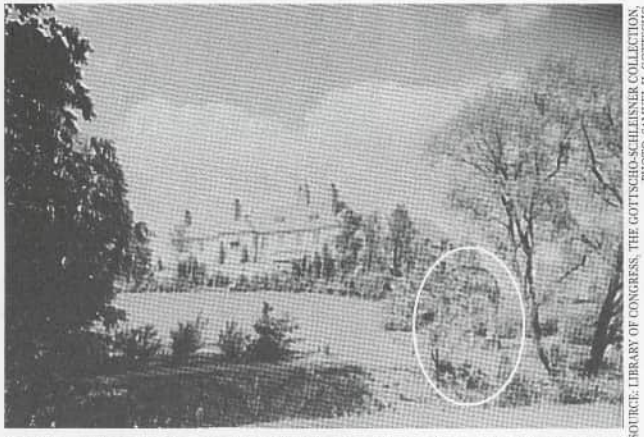


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SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

Left, the arches of the cloisters (lower terrace area) provided space for orchestras and entertainers along with a bar for entertaining. A dance floor could then be set up over the grassy lawn. (See housewarming article on page 12 of the biography.)



SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, THE GOTTSCHO-SCHLEISNER COLLECTION. PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

Above, this rare Samuel H. Gottscho photo from the Library of Congress collection shows the concrete gazebo in the lower right, with wrought iron roof, which survived until the early 1960s and supported living floral vines.

South Lawn and Pool Area

The swimming pool, ten feet deep and 78 feet long, and its fountaining jets were patterned after one the Grants had seen in Europe around 1930. Jets of water from each side adorned the pool, providing an elegant sight for visitors and family when the Grants entertained. Later Normandy Church added a baby pool at one end and built a bathhouse and fence. Because of deterioration and lack of use, in 1988 the church filled the pool with dirt and planted grass. A stone gazebo with an iron dome once stood near the swimming pool. Only the stone of the fountain in the center of the rear terrace wall at the top of the stairway leading to the south lawn is left today. *(See photo on page 144.)*

South from Richard Grant's bedroom in the 1930s, the swimming pool is on the right with low and high diving boards. On the left over a wooden footbridge stood tennis courts, beyond that the vegetable gardens. Everything within this view was part of Normandy Farm. (See maps on pages 106 and 107.)

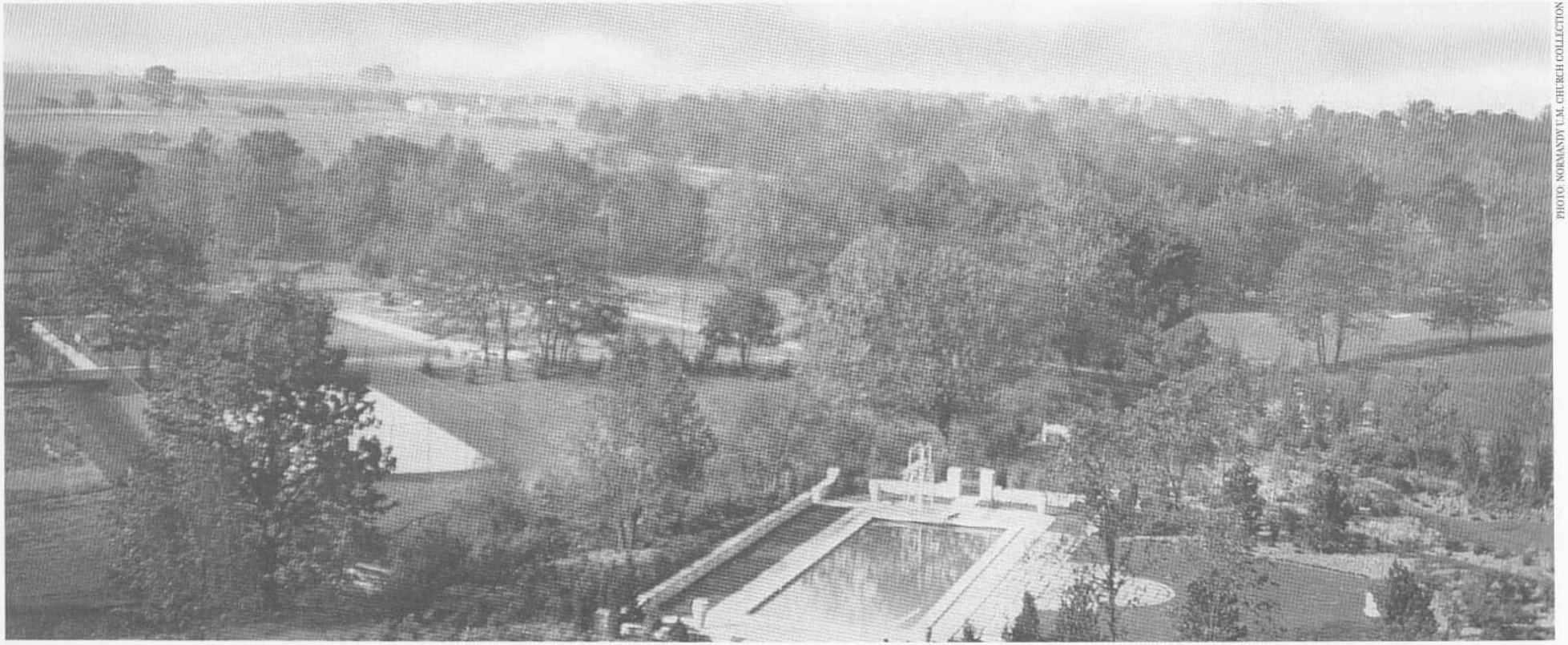


PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

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PHOTO: DON WALLACE, DAYTON, OHIO. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Tennis Court, over bridge east of pool, 1940.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Playground, south lawn and terrace, 2001.



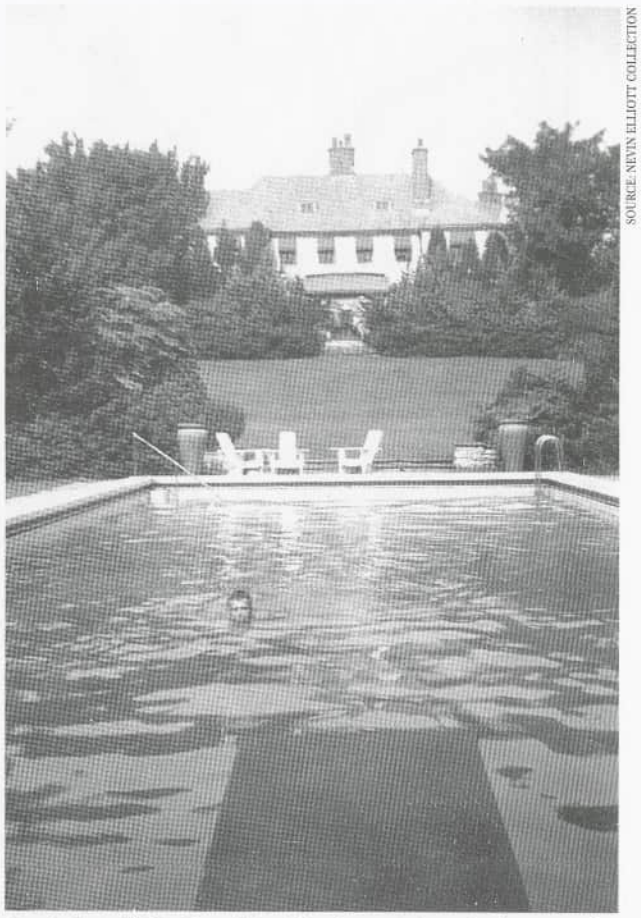
SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAG., 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

Pool, south lawn and terrace, circa 1931



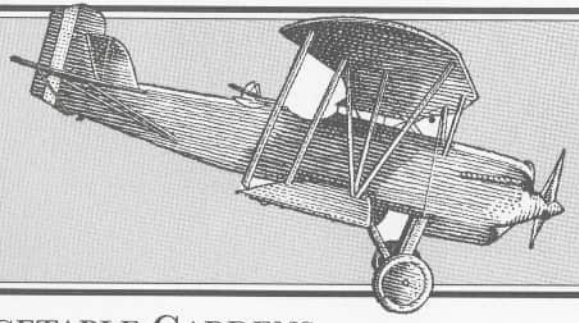
PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Playground, south lawn and terrace, 2001.



SOURCE: NEVIN ELLIOTT COLLECTION

By the late 1940s the original landscape plants had matured.



NOSE-DIVE

In the mid-1930s a biplane attempting to land in the pool crashed into a nearby tree. The pilot was killed in this accident and a passenger died en route to the hospital.

VEGETABLE GARDENS

The estate boasted a vast vegetable garden, across the stream to the southeast of the swimming pool, with an elaborate irrigation system. Farm hands plowed and disked the acre plot and then the Grant's gardener planted and tended the garden.

REAR TERRACE

The lovely stone terrace measured about forty feet across the center. The land behind the terrace dropped fifteen feet to the glamorous pool. In the center base of the terrace retaining wall was a fountain, which was lit at night. Much stone statuary was imported from Italy.

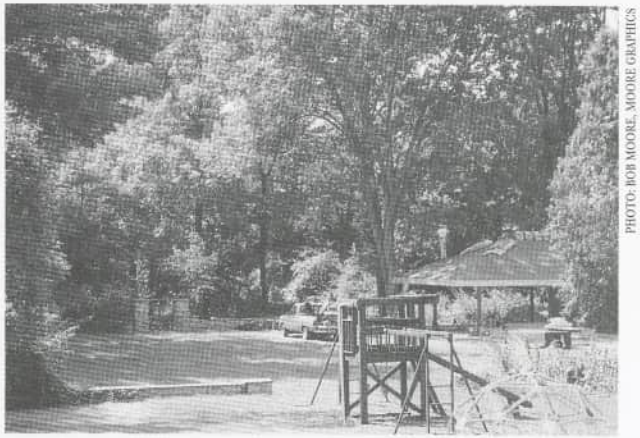
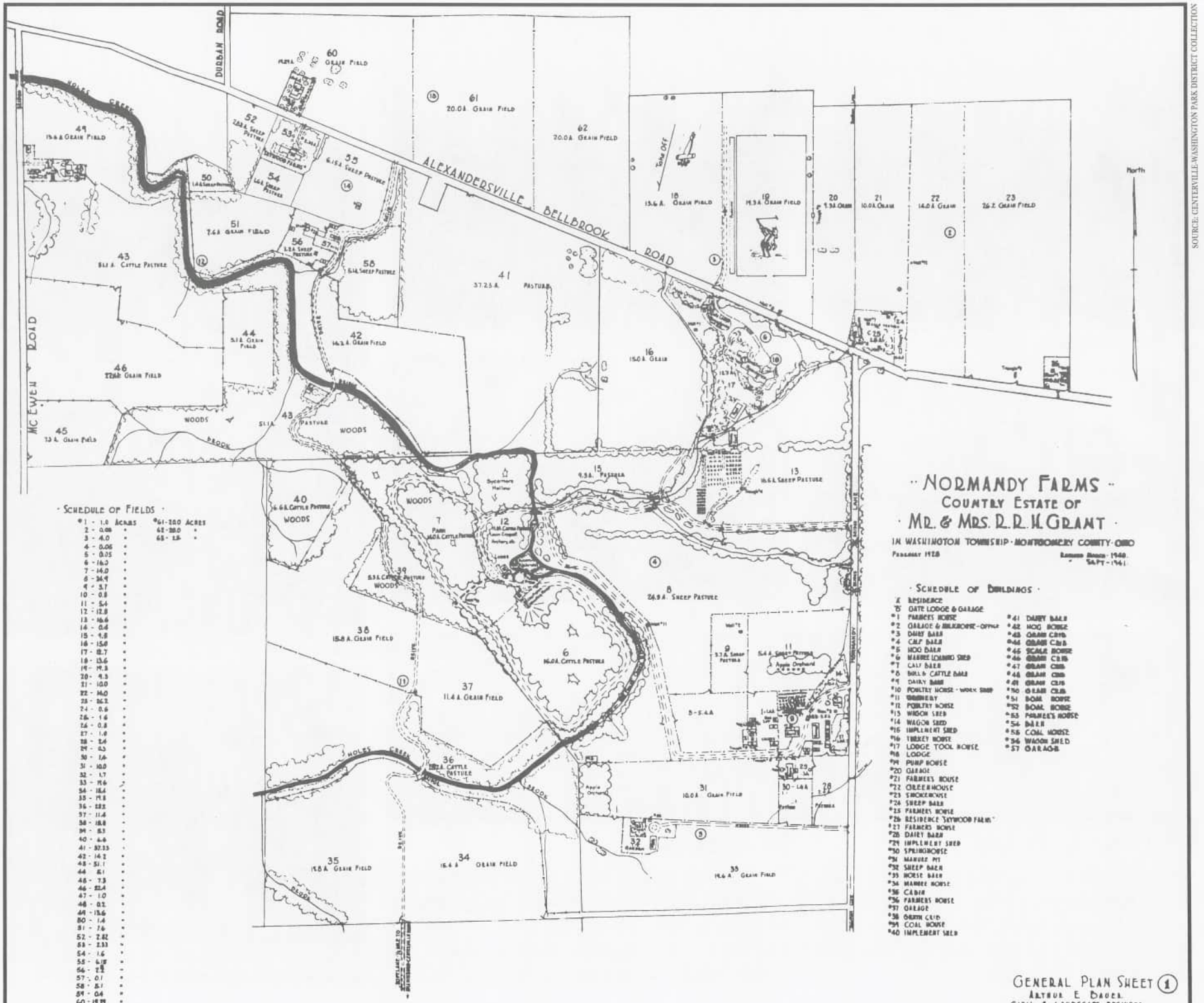


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

A new picnic shelter was added west of the old pool area by Normandy Church in September, 2002. *See page 70.*

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Normandy Farms

Country Estate of Mr. & Mrs. R. R. H. Grant

In Washington Township · Montgomery County · Ohio

February 1928

Remodeled 1940-1941

Schedule of Fields

*1	1.8 Acres	*61	20.0 Acres
2	0.08 "	62	20.0 "
3	4.0 "	63	1.5 "
4	0.06 "		
5	0.05 "		
6	16.0 "		
7	14.0 "		
8	24.9 "		
9	3.7 "		
10	0.8 "		
11	5.4 "		
12	11.8 "		
13	16.6 "		
14	0.4 "		
15	9.5 "		
16	15.0 "		
17	12.7 "		
18	13.6 "		
19	14.3 "		
20	9.3 "		
21	10.0 "		
22	14.0 "		
23	26.2 "		
24	0.6 "		
26	1.6 "		
26	0.8 "		
27	1.0 "		
28	5.4 "		
29	0.5 "		
30	1.6 "		
31	16.0 "		
32	1.7 "		
33	19.6 "		
34	15.6 "		
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36	13.2 "		
37	11.4 "		
38	15.8 "		
39	5.3 "		
40	6.6 "		
41	37.25 "		
42	14.3 "		
43	84.1 "		
44	5.1 "		
45	7.3 "		
46	72.8 "		
47	1.0 "		
48	0.2 "		
49	19.6 "		
50	1.6 "		
51	7.6 "		
52	2.82 "		
53	2.33 "		
54	1.6 "		
55	6.18 "		
56	2.8 "		
57	0.1 "		
58	5.1 "		
59	0.4 "		
60	19.19 "		

Schedule of Buildings

E	Residence	*41	Dairy Barn
G	Gate Lodge & Garage	*42	Hog House
*1	Farmers House	*43	Grain Crib
*2	Garage & Milkroom - Office	*44	Grain Crib
*3	Dairy Barn	*45	Scale House
*4	Calf Barn	*46	Grain Crib
*5	Hog Barn	*47	Grain Crib
*6	Manure Loading Shed	*48	Grain Crib
*7	Calf Barn	*49	Grain Crib
*8	Bull & Cattle Barn	*50	Grain Crib
*9	Dairy Barn	*51	Barn House
*10	Poultry House - Work Shop	*52	Barn House
*11	Greenery	*53	Farmer's House
*12	Poultry House	*54	Barn
*13	Wagon Shed	*55	Coal House
*14	Wagon Shed	*56	Wagon Shed
*15	Implement Shed	*57	Garage
*16	Turkey House		
*17	Lodge Tool House		
*18	Lodge		
*19	Pump House		
*20	Garage		
*21	Farmer's House		
*22	Creen House		
*23	Smoke House		
*24	Sheep Barn		
*25	Farmers House		
*26	Residence "Saywood Farm"		
*27	Farmers House		
*28	Dairy Barn		
*29	Implement Shed		
*30	Springhouse		
*31	Manure Pit		
*32	Sheep Barn		
*33	Horse Barn		
*34	Manure House		
*35	Cabin		
*36	Farmers House		
*37	Garage		
*38	Chicken Coop		
*39	Coal House		
*40	Implement Shed		

General Plan Sheet (1)

Arthur E. Bauer

Civil & Landscape Engineer

Hotel Rike Bldg. Dayton Ohio

SOURCE: CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT COLLECTION

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Rose Garden

The rose garden, located on the southwest side of the house, was unique not only because of Zehrung's choice of roses, planted in a lovely circular setting, but also because of the eight hand-forged, wrought iron hanging lanterns with chains suspended between each. An Italian fountain served as the centerpiece of the upper garden circle, while a mirrored gazing ball served as centerpiece of the lower circle. Two rows of bushes formed an alleyway for flagstone leading from the house and the upper terrace. As on the terrace, the garden was enhanced by the wonderful antique statuary purchased by Mrs. Grant. (The bill for importing so much Italian statuary had disturbed Grant.)

In 1963 the rose garden was replaced by the octagonal fellowship hall on the west end off the dining room, to meet the growing needs of the church.



SOURCE: LAURA GRANT COLLECTION, PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

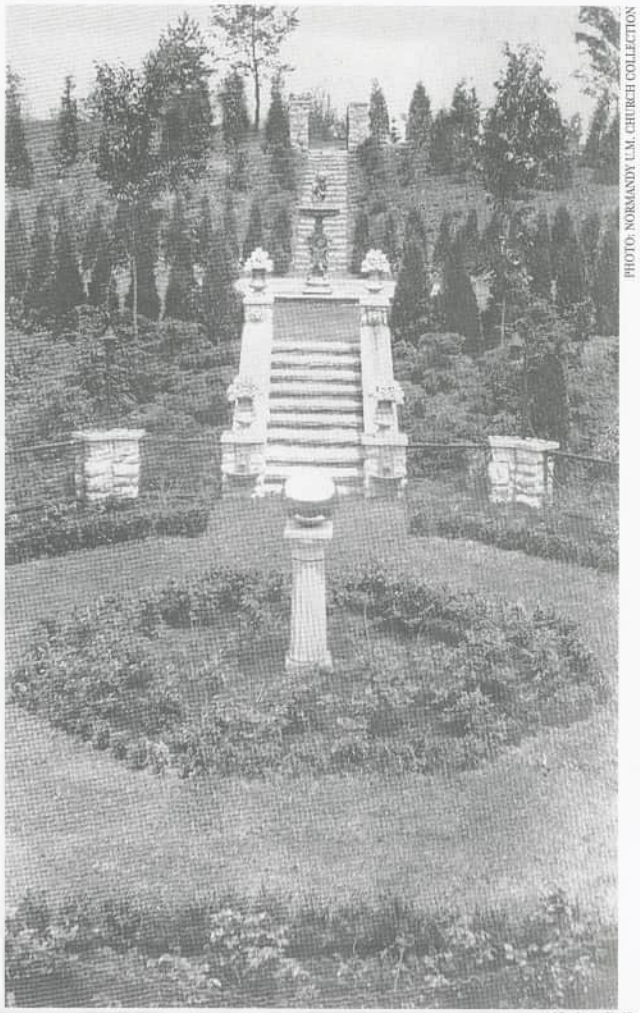


PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

Right, the Lower Rose Garden with the reflecting ball, wrought iron railings and lamps. Left, stairs led to the Upper Rose Garden with recirculating fountain, then, above, another series of stairs led to the wrought iron gate intercepting the driveway at the west edge of the mansion.



DRAWING: S.D. ZEHRUNG—NORM. U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION—PHOTO: MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

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Interior

Today, a walk through the various rooms of the mansion provides a reminiscence of a historical journey between the medieval and the modern. There is much that is preserved of the original, but there are some adaptations of certain aspects that were necessary to meet the building's changing uses.

Normandy United Methodist Church Floor Plan

(See color 3-floor version on page 110.)

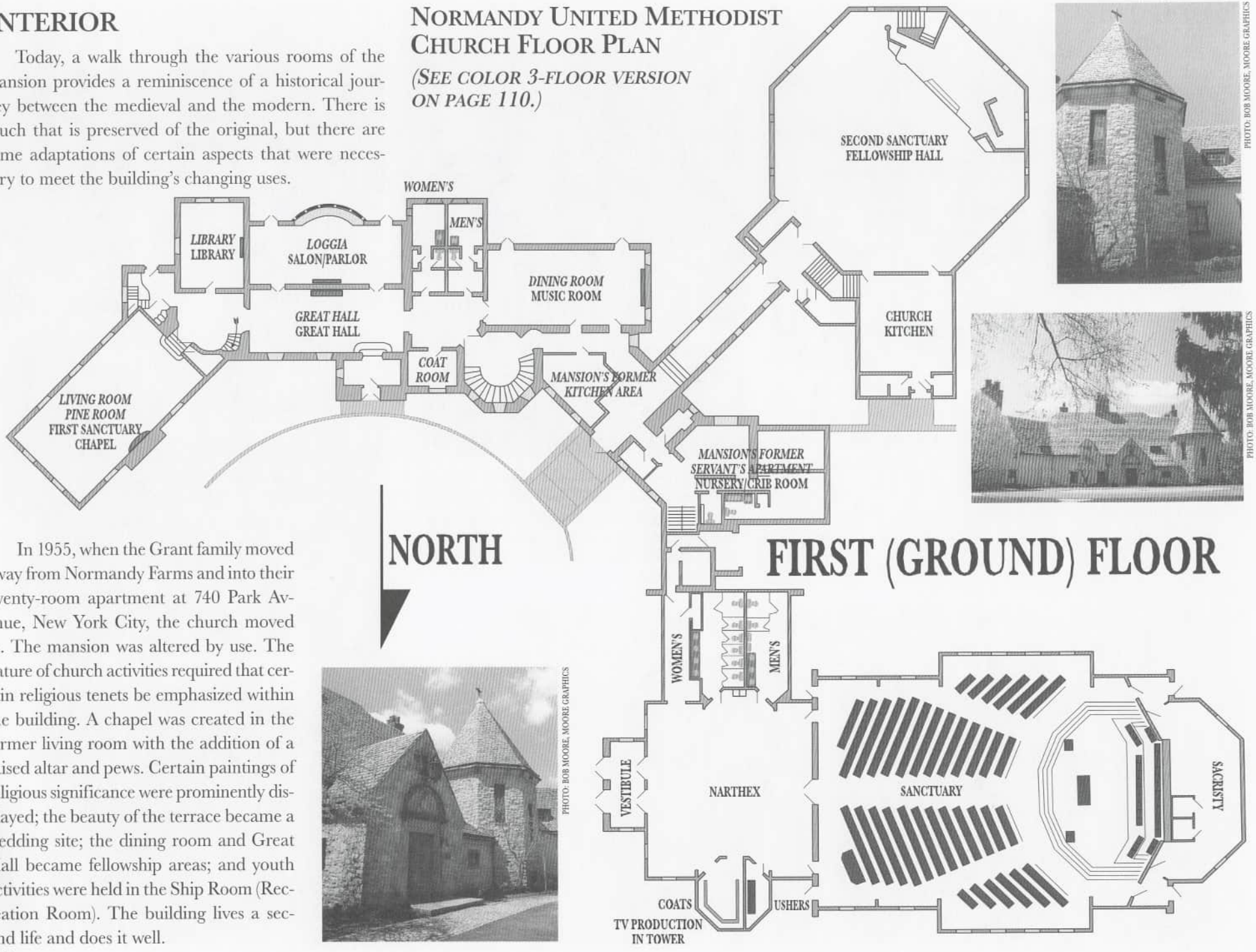


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

In 1955, when the Grant family moved away from Normandy Farms and into their twenty-room apartment at 740 Park Avenue, New York City, the church moved in. The mansion was altered by use. The nature of church activities required that certain religious tenets be emphasized within the building. A chapel was created in the former living room with the addition of a raised altar and pews. Certain paintings of religious significance were prominently displayed; the beauty of the terrace became a wedding site; the dining room and Great Hall became fellowship areas; and youth activities were held in the Ship Room (Recreation Room). The building lives a second life and does it well.

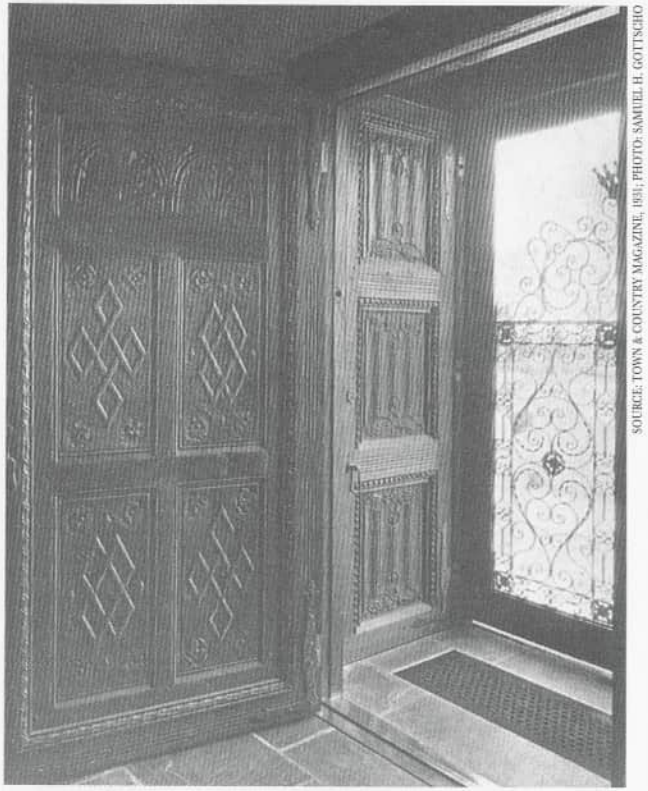
PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

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Entrance To Mansion

To the right of the entrance door is the plaque commemorating the designation of Normandy Farms in 1984 as a building on the National Register of Historic Buildings. The doorway has two sets of imported hand-carved doors fitted with wrought iron hinges. Throughout the house, wrought iron registers, grates, shutters, hardware, sconces, and ships were fabricated by a crew of "old world" (European) craftsmen. An iron grill from an old Italian gate was fabricated into the screen door but has since been removed. Double outer doors fold back in panels to reveal the door to the Vestibule when open. These doors and the inner door are in American oak, masterfully carved by John Rebholz of New York.

Above the door, carved in stone, is the Grant coat of arms. A wrought iron lamp hangs over the doorway.



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1951; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

An original iron gate served as the screen door frame.

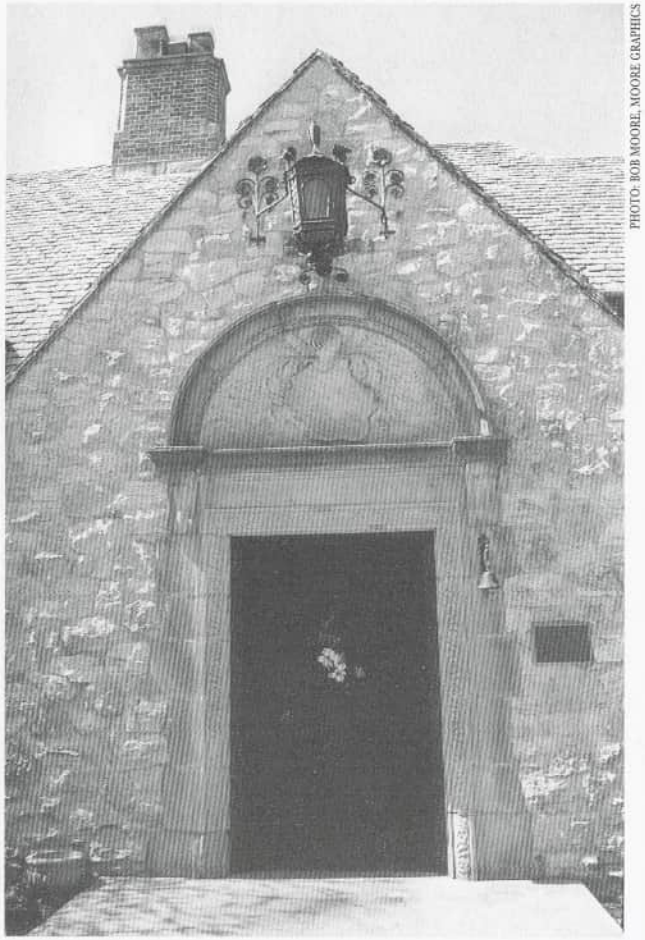


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Vestibule

Immediately inside the entrance is a small vestibule with stone walls and a slate floor. A stained glass window on one side is dated in the 1200s. A brass rubbing of the Bishop of Ely's tomb in England was made by two parishioners and currently hangs in the vestibule. Originally a detailed painted fabric wall-hanging hung there. Unfortunately, this tapestry was stolen in the 1970s and has never been recovered. Across from the rubbing is a small casement window with a plaque made in 1207 with Henry III's coat-of-arms. The plaque exhibits the early use of N written in *ANNO*, medieval writing no longer in use.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

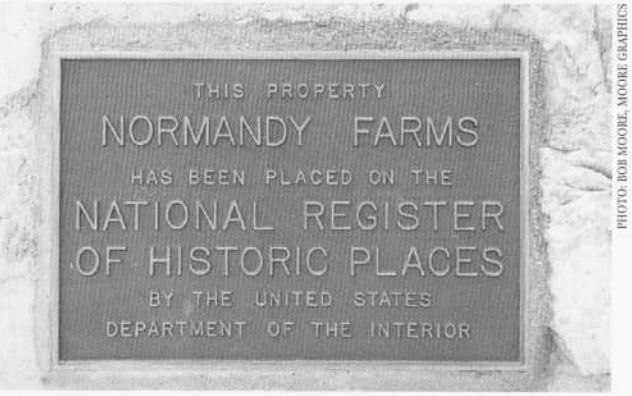


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

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Great Hall

Entering the Great Hall is like stepping back into the 17th century. The highlight of the room is the vast fireplace under a stone mantelpiece with a dark, richly hued oil painting above. The hand carved paneling on the walls dates back to 1663 as confirmed by the date carved over the openings to the foyers on the east and the west. The paneling here and in the Library was imported from England. The ceiling is carved plaster, copied from one seen in England. The workmen lay on scaffolding to execute the design and then the ceiling was antiqued to give it the original look.

The Grants left several items to the church when they moved to New York, including two Bishop trunks of black oak, some richly-upholstered hand-carved chairs, a needlepoint picture of a rose cross dated 1860; and a large 15th century refractory table crowned by two tall electric candlestick table lamps with antique parchment lampshades, (crafted from old music). A Renaissance painting of *The Prodigal Son* spans the top of the imported mantelpiece.

The fireplace is carved white granite and quite valuable. Many crests decorate the windows and sconces liven the hall walls. The one of the ox fording a stream is the crest of Oxford and shows how Oxford, England, got its name.

Great Hall, 1931. Oriental rugs provided softness and warmth.



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAG., 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Above, the imported carved white granite mantelpiece. Exterior measurements are approximately 86" wide by 68" tall.

Below, Great Hall, circa 1950. Note the subtle changes in furnishings that were implemented by the Grants during their tenure at Normandy Farms.

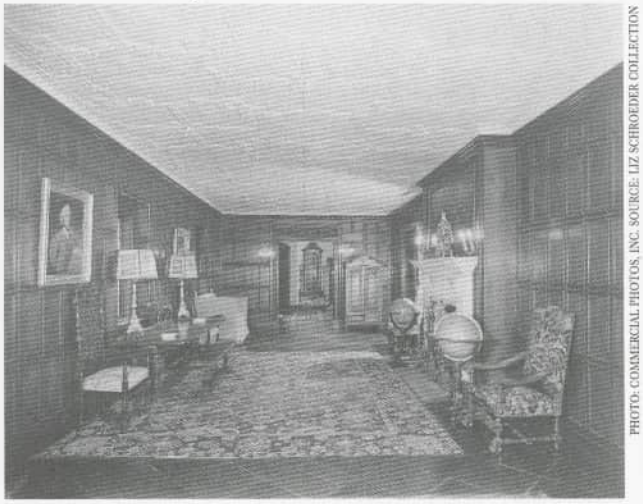


PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Above, an oil painting of* The Prodigal Son *over the white granite Great Hall mantelpiece.

Below, Great Hall, 2001. Three steps lead down from the vestibule to a diagonal, checkerboard pattern of light and dark slate flooring.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

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Right, one of 16 small stained glass crests. This one reflects the name of Grant's mother's family, the Hallams.

Below right, two sets of French doors led from the Sun Room (Loggia) to the back porch which was slightly elevated above the south terrace which, in turn, overlooked the entire estate.

Below, parchment music lampshades on candlestick lamps atop an antique table.

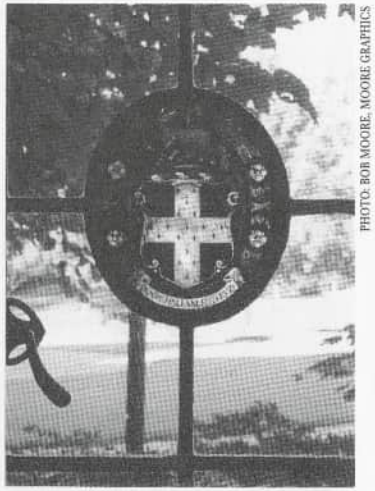


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: NORMANDY U.M. CHURCH COLLECTION

The completed mansion from the south (pool area) shows use of tall trees to give an ambience of European elegance, circa 1930.

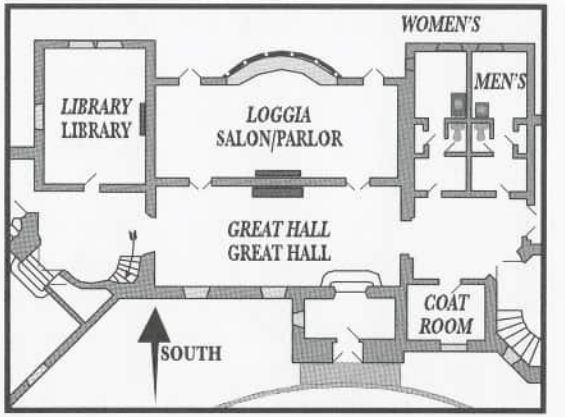




PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

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Sun Room & South Terrace

Through the two sets of double French doors in the Great Hall lies the Sun Room, once called the French Room by the Grants. These doors are two of the 118 doors in the house, each of which had a separate key. The loggia has been restored to the appearance similar to when the Grants lived there. The crystal wall sconces and ceiling chandeliers were removed by the Grants before selling the mansion. The butler's pull over the west door into the Great Hall can still be seen. An original painting by German artist William Kuhling, from the 1850s, hangs over the black marble fireplace. Outside the Sun Room is the terrace where the Grants held parties but now is used in summer wedding receptions and luncheons.

The curved roof of the bay window is in lead, in keeping with the slate roof and the stone. Two sets of double French doors lead out to the Upper Terrace.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Sunroom, 2001



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

View from Terrace, 2001



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Sun room fireplace, circa 1950.



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

Beautifully landscaped terrace with summer awnings, circa 1931.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

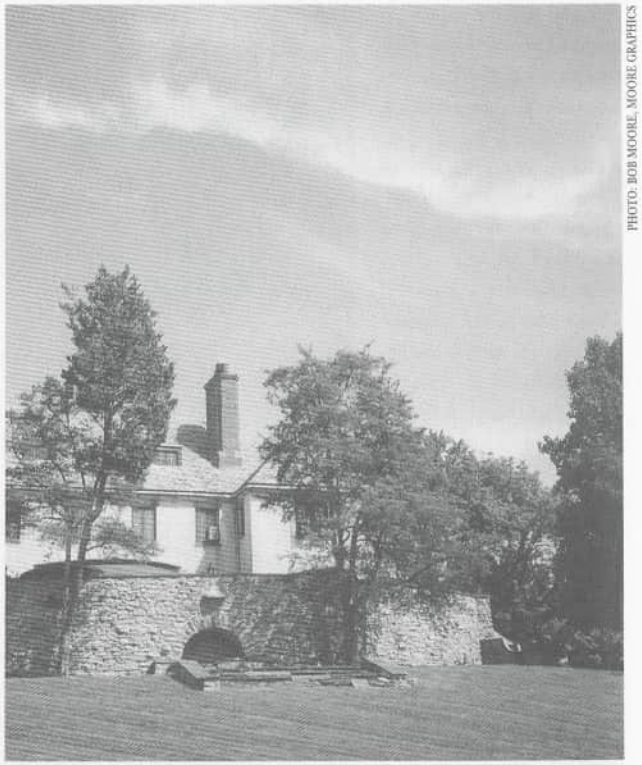


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

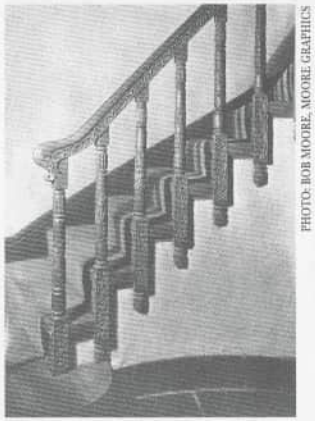


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Stairs to the Grants' bedroom suites. Gate cut into the upper railing on the right.

Foyer

At the east end of the Great Hall is a foyer with three doors leading into the Library, the Grant Chapel, and a stairway down to the basement. There is also a

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curving stairway going up to the second floor. The Grants had this second stairway built directly to their suites from the library and living room because the grand stairway was so far away at the west end of the main house. The architect designed it in the Tudor style to be more intimate in nature, constructed in oak, with hand- carved balusters, repeating pattern on each ninth one. At the top of the stairway is a gate which served as access to the personal elevator the Grants added in their declining years.

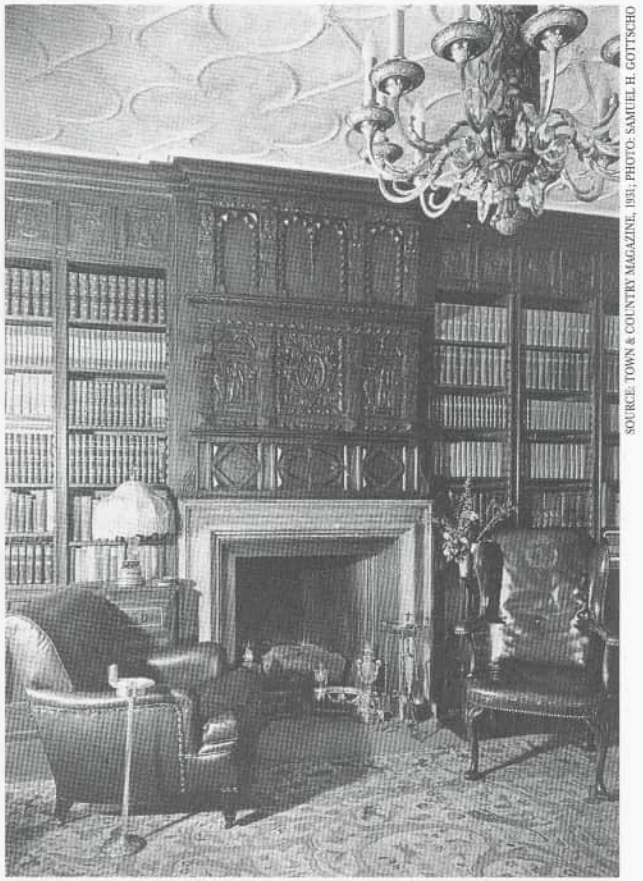
LIBRARY

A lovely carved door leads into the Library. This most unusual door has carvings on the back that portray the history of the door's original owner, a squire in Old England, a person of importance who fathered four children, one of whom died early. The deer and fox symbolize that this squire enjoyed hunting. This door has a good example of "linen fold" carving on the inside face.



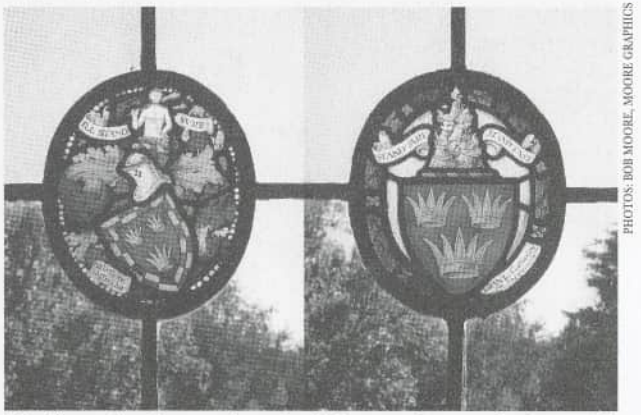
PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Several members of the Grant family mentioned that the library was their favorite room.



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

To the right of the fireplace was a leather Queen Anne chair, originally in the old Athenaeum Club in Pall Mall, 1931.



PHOTOS: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The Grant family crest in stained glass can be seen in the room's rear window. It has three distinctive crowns and the motto, "Stand sure, stand fast." (See color versions on page 111.)

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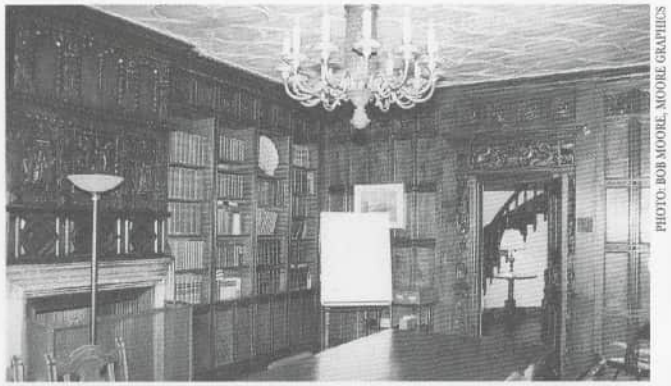


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The library in 2001 remains relatively unchanged. The addition of the large table allows it to be used for church meetings.



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Mr. Grant's desk with a picture of Richard, Jr., on it and a picture of Thirza above, circa 1950



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

The exquisite linenfold carved door, circa 1950.

The library has many other interesting features. One of the four safes in the house is located here. The carvings on the antique fireplace appear to have religious significance. As suggested by a former English Sexton, perhaps the fireplace had a table in front and with the appropriate accoutrement, could became an altar. It would be used as a place for worship during religious persecutions and could be dismantled easily. The large long table here now, was given to the church and was hand-built to blend with the decor of the room. The Reverend Milford Ater once used this room as an office.

Several Grant family members mentioned that the library was the favorite gathering place for the family in the evenings. The dark hand carved paneling, fireplace, and many books, gave the room a smaller and more intimate appearance. The family radio, hidden in one of the push toggle cabinets, was a Crosley Presto Tune 12 with AM and two shortwave bands. Shortwave news could be received directly from such countries as Spain and Italy by button tuning to the marks on the radio. Marked on the dial was the location of WLW, the 50,000-watt super station (500,000-watt, 1934-1939) owned by Powell Crosley in Cincinnati. Police and emergency bands were also marked on the dial.

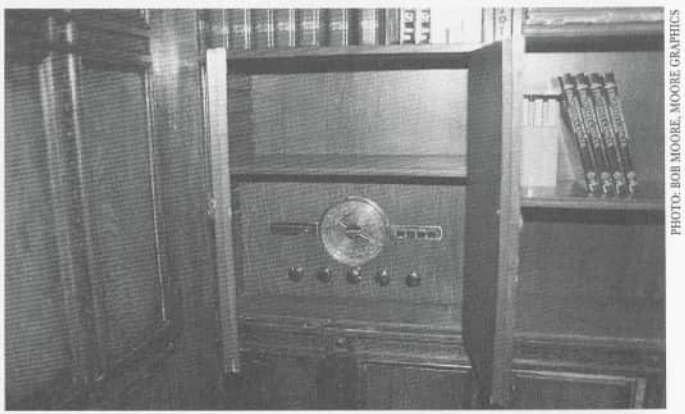


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The built-in Crosley Presto Tune 12 radio with AM and two shortwave bands was behind a push-to-close, push-to-open toggling cabinet. It featured push-button preselected channels and a lighted rotary tuning dial.

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SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

In 1931 the Living Room, also known as the Pine Room, had Bristol Chandeliers.

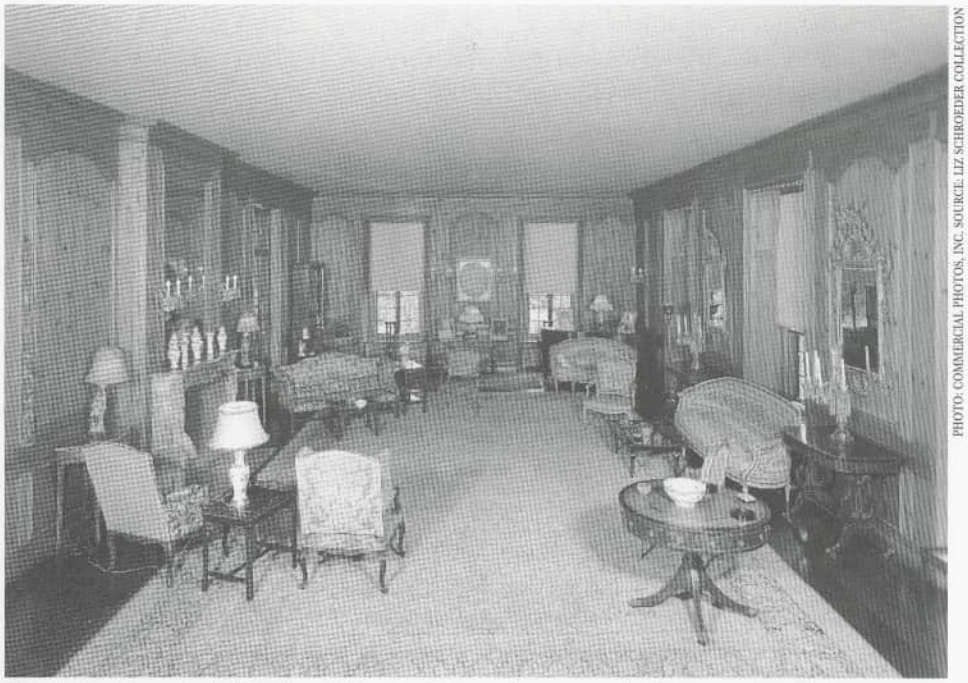


PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

The Living Room in 1950. Chandeliers and draperies removed, shades now in windows.

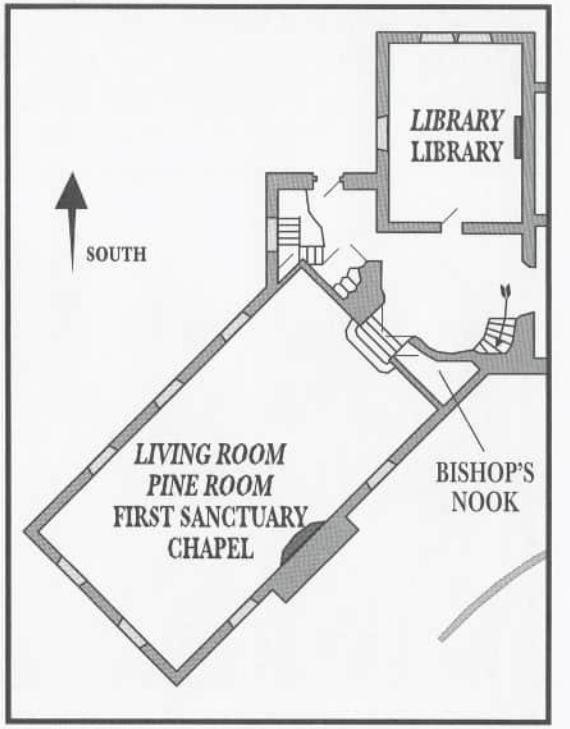


PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

The rose marble fireplace of the living room.

Pine Living Room

Five steps down from the east foyer is the Grant Chapel, previously the Grant Living Room. During the Grants' tenure, this was called the "Pine Room" because of the English pine paneling. This room contained two lovely English Bristol Glass chandeliers which were later moved to the Grants' 740 Park Avenue residence. The mirrored shelves below the windows were cases that held Mrs. Grant's collection of dolls. The rose marble fireplace (one of eleven imported fireplaces) was from Belgrave House in London (all the fireplaces in the Normandy mansion have unique backgrounds.) Mrs. Grant chose the original jade colored brocade curtains (shown, above left) which framed the view down the hill to the formal ponds.



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After the home became a church, a platform was added for the organ, choir pews, and altar with a lit cross. A larger carved cross is behind the alter on the wall.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The church's first chapel used for Sunday worship services until the fellowship hall was completed in June, 1963. Photo, 2001.

Behind the large doors on the left side of the entrance into the Grant Chapel is a hidden panel which opens into a replica of a Bishop's nook (priests' hold), a hiding place for the priest during periods of religious persecution. Mr. Grant had this built-in to preserve a bit of "Merry Olde England" and to preclude any extra space going to waste. The wallpaper is an antique David Copperfield print and is very well preserved because of the dark, dry room. When the door is closed, all joints and corners are matched.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The David Copperfield wallpaper inside the Bishop's nook.

Stairway to the Basement

At the east end of the foyer is a door leading to the square rear tower, which links the rear facing of the central section with the east wing. On the main level, a small service sink is located in a closet off the stairway, and a rear door leads to the east edge of the upper terrace. Mrs. Grant's bathroom occupied the upper portion of the tower. Mid-stairway there is a door leading to a former half-bath which now has a sink. Another door leads to the Cloisters under the upper terrace. The Cloisters area was often used for dances with the band playing on the terrace or in the Cloisters. The third door leads to the basement.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The small staircase inside the square corner tower.

The community was agog in the mid-1930s when the Grant family held an elaborate costume party and neighbors parked cars along Normandy Lane to catch a glimpse of the festivities. According to neighbors, Rudy Vallee, radio and stage crooner, landed in a plane on the polo field, across from the home, to entertain for the party.



Rudy Vallee, circa 1935.

A portable dance floor, stored in farm buildings, was brought out for social events. It was designed in 60 sections 6' x 12' with 3/4" tongue and groove oak flooring. On occasion, Grant's friends in Oakwood borrowed the dance floor, which was trucked to their homes by Grant's farm hands.

Basement

Through the door from the stairway and down four steps is the foyer under the first floor foyer.

Billiard Room

To the left of the doorway is the billiard room with pine paneling. Each corner of the room has a built-in pool cue rack. The two windows on the east wall look out into the Cloisters porch which is slightly above the floor level of the billiard room. *(See photo on page 61.)*

Across the foyer from the billiard room is a small closet in which are the remnants of the Grants' personal elevator. Opening the door releases a button which turns on a light switch. Grant hated going into a dark closet. He is supposed to have suggested such automatic door lights for the new GM cars and may well have suggested their introduction into refrigerators. Today all cars and refrigerators have the automatic open-door light.

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PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

2001 youth meeting room.

Recreation Room

To the right of the closet door and down five steps is the Recreation Room, under the Grant Chapel. It was often used as the Ballroom, and sometimes called the Ship Room because of the large iron and pewter ship chandelier and ship wall sconces which cast an indirect reflected light. Like the mariner's compass in the main stairway, these fixtures demonstrated Grant's interest in his nautical background. In 1963 these fixtures were moved to the newly built octagonal sanctuary. The original Revolutionary War wallpaper and parquet wood floor, ruined by water damage in the early '80s, were removed.



PHOTO: DON WALLACE, DAYTON, OHIO. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Above, the Ship Room, circa 1930. Note the Revolutionary War wallpaper and the ship chandelier.

Below, a sample of the Revolutionary War mural extracted from the photograph above.



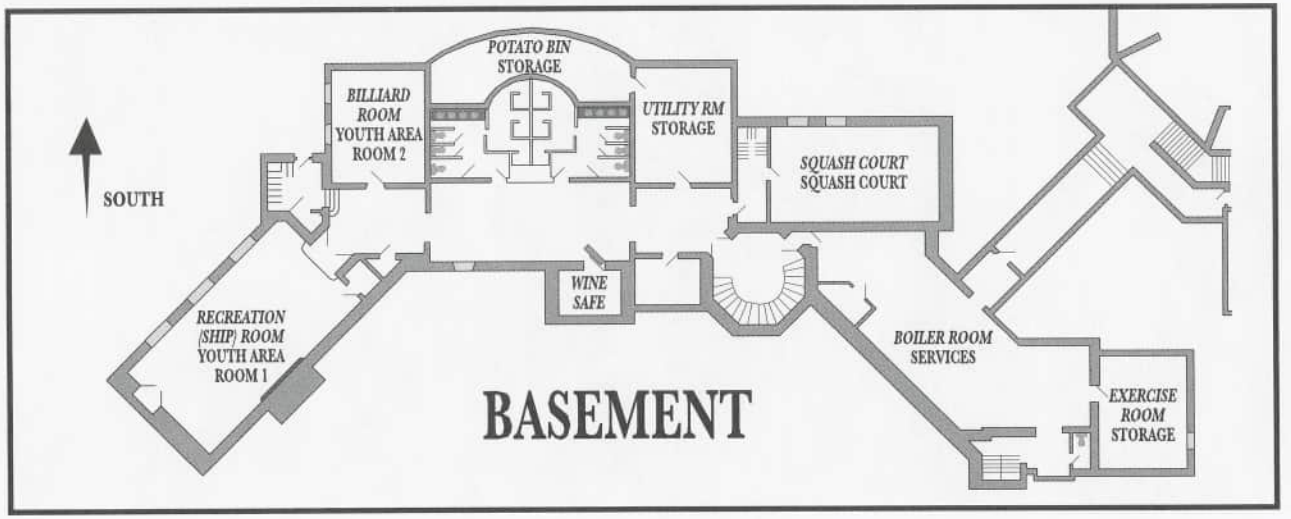
COMPUTER PHOTO COMPOSITE BY BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS FROM PHOTO ABOVE

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SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE, 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

The Ship Room, 1931. Note the phonograph at right, the wet bar, back room right, and the dry bar back room left.



There is a massive fireplace and open beam structure which made the room less formal. A wet bar on the right side of the stairway had a most unusual tiled wall. Many lavish parties, some costume, were held there.

After the water damage of the early 1980s the room was carpeted and now serves as a Sunday school and youth activity room.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Wet bar wall. See color photo on page 111.

Main Hallway

Back through the foyer and up two steps is the main hallway under the Great Hall. In the hallway is a series of ceiling-to-floor carved walnut display cases.

The last in the series was a wall case gun rack. Constructed as a hidden door it can be swiveled out and back on small rollers, like a huge door. *(See sidebar on next page.)* Behind it was a large vault door which led to the mansion's wine cellar under the main entrance foyer.



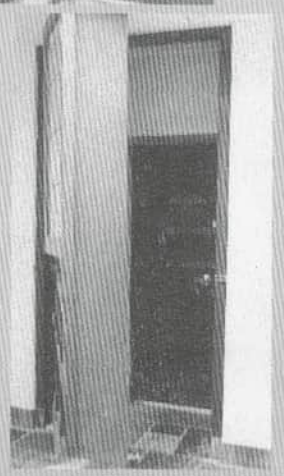
PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The cases of the basement hall.

The dressing rooms across the hall were quite lavish and used for the convenience of swimmers. The men's dressing room had a steam bath. These rooms were remodeled to accommodate larger church groups.

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THE WINE CELLAR—The most ingenious of the hidden panels in the mansion was the gun case which masked the entrance to the wine safe.

UTILITY (FAN) ROOM & POTATO BIN

Through the next foyer, toward the back of the house was the utility room. This was called the fan room because it held the large blower system that circulated air throughout the house.

Off the left of the fan room was the potato bin. It was a semicircular room under the upper terrace and protected by a latex sealer to make it waterproof. It was a naturally cool place used to store vegetables and seasonal household decorations.

SQUASH COURT

Back through the foyer to the left is another wooden door leading to a stairway down to the original squash court. A basketball net has been mounted on the wall for youth activities at the church.

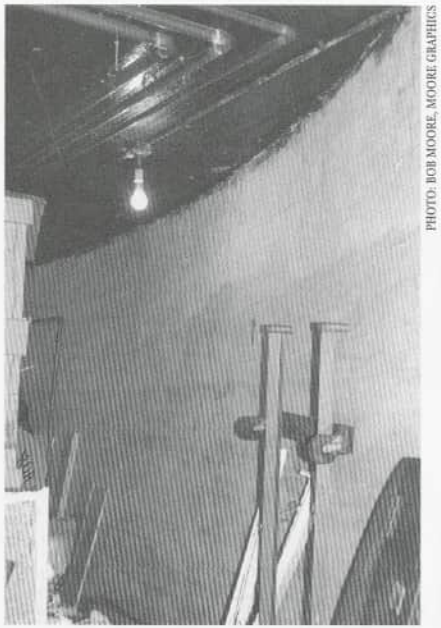


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The potato bin offered great storage.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The squash court—one level below the basement.

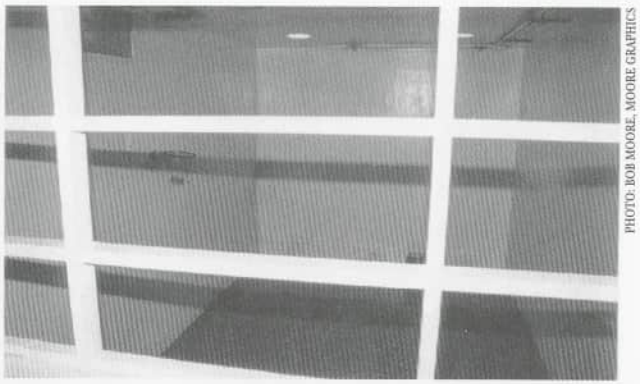


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The observation deck above the squash court used to be glassed in. Utility pipes run across the ceiling.

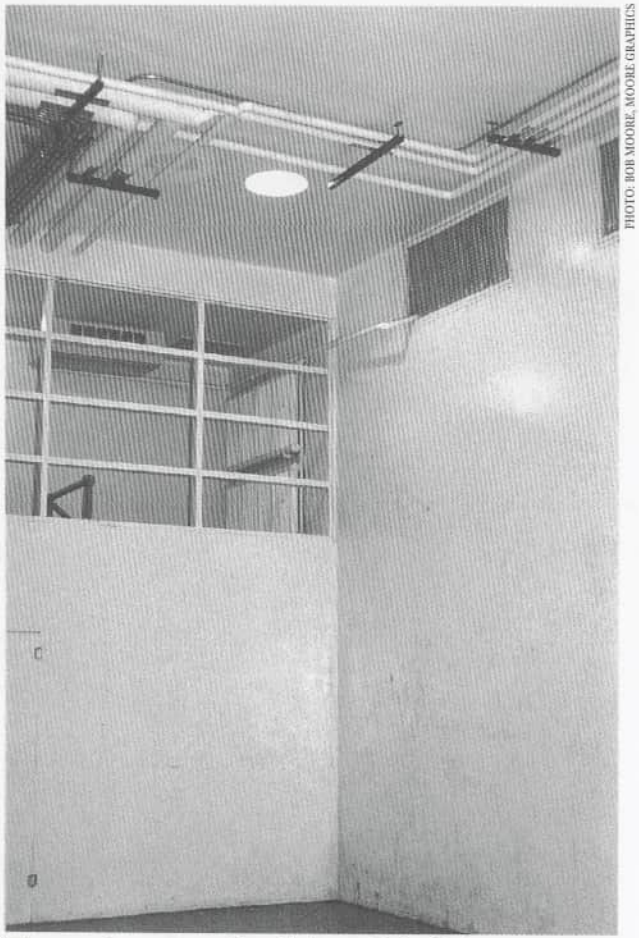


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The squash court was directly beneath the dining room.

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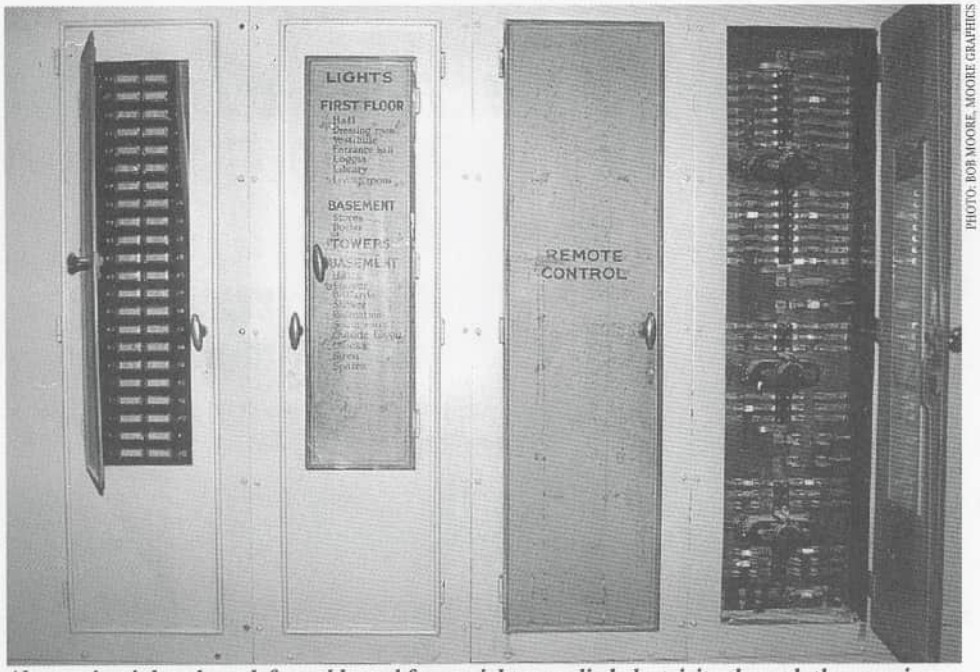


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Above, circuit breakers, left, and barrel fuses, right, supplied electricity through the mansion. Below, the Frigidaire air conditioning system and freon delivery systems were some of the first in a home in the nation.

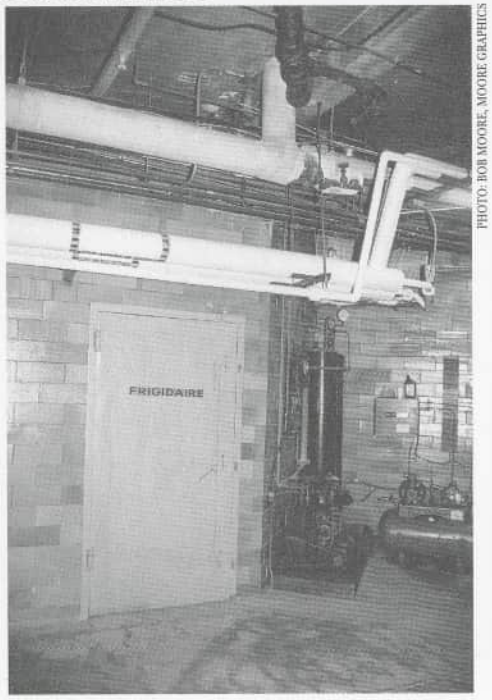


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Boiler Room (Service Area)

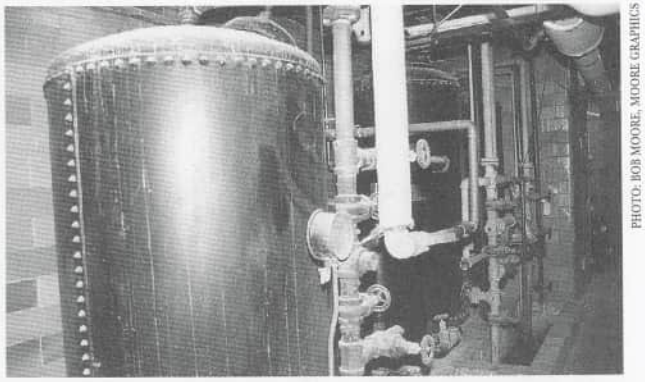


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The water heater tanks were enormous.

The door into the furnace room was heavy safety steel with a weighted chain to help open it. In case of fire some lead links in the chain would melt, the weight would drop off, and the door would slam shut. There are enormous circuit boxes—all hand labeled. There is circulating hot water controlled by a pressure system. Large refrigeration and Frigidaire air conditioning systems were housed here. Two boilers and two water softening systems make up the rest of the duplicates Grant required. Today the boiler uses gas.

A long hallway goes from the basement furnace room to the lower level of the 1963 addition. There are several Sunday school rooms and restrooms at the bottom of the stairs below Fellowship Hall.

Behind the furnace room was Grant's private gym, a paneled room with a mechanical horse, wall weights, and a boxing bag.

A small half-bath was located outside this room.

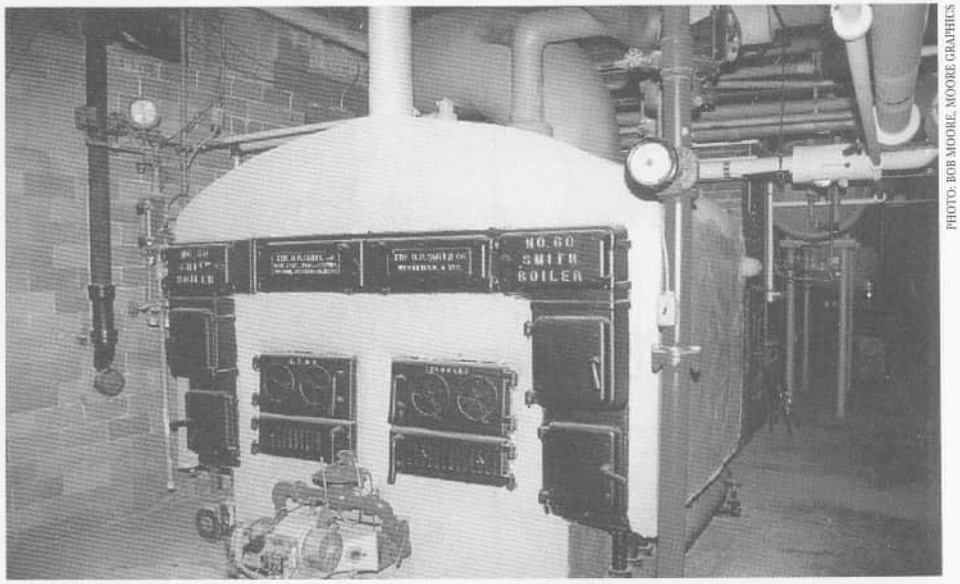


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The boiler, like many of the systems in the house, was duplicated to provide backup support.

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The servants' stairway leads to the upper floor. A door on the landing between the basement and first floor once provided access to the three-car garage and autocourt. On the landing of this stairway between the first and second floor was the silver safe (Room 227 on the floor plan).

A permanent staff of twelve was increased for parties. The servants in such a large home must have had problems with so many stairways, but the many outdoor exits gave the Grants freedom to enjoy their gardens and grounds around the mansion.

SECOND FLOOR

SERVICE AREA

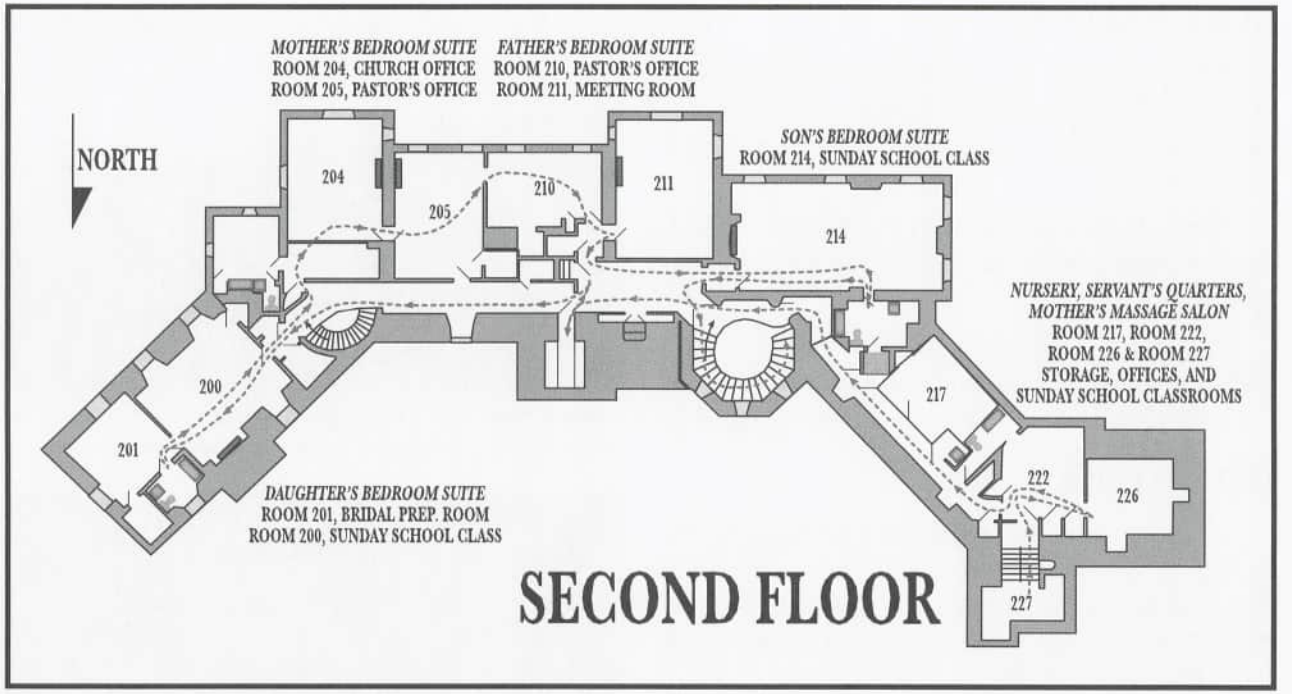
At the top of the stairs was Mrs. Grant's personal massage room (Room 226). Next to that is the church's Sexton's room. These three rooms of this wing, at various times, also served as additional servants' quarters, a nursery room for the Grants' grandchildren, and as an apartment for the servants' children (see sidebar, *A Jumping-Off Place*, right).

The laundry chute in this hallway has an unusual catch made to open by a bump of an elbow when hands are full. There are several small storage closets along the servants hallway. The broad hip roof on the front of the house provides a curve to the ceiling which was open in two areas by the dormer windows.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

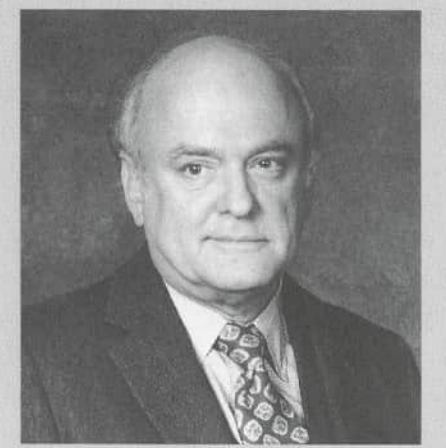
The service hallway, looking west.



The dotted line above, describes the path for a tour of this floor. Starting at the far right (west) it goes down the entire hallway to the far left (Room 201) then back through the four family member's suites to the grand stairway and down to the main level.

A JUMPING-OFF PLACE

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, a young Gordon Jump and his brother, Jeffrey, lived in a bedroom at the top of the stairs above the kitchen. Their parents, Alexander and Betty Jump, were English-born members of the Grant domestic staff. The Jumps also lived for a time in the "double" house for farm hands on McEwen Road *(see page 53.)* Gordon Jump graduated from Centerville High School in 1951 and after a short stint at local television station WLW-D (now WDTN) went to Hollywood to pursue a career in acting.



Gordon Jump

He has since been in several movies and has had guest appearances in several TV series including: *Daniel Boone, Get Smart, Green Acres, Starsky and Hutch, The Brady Bunch, The Partridge Family, The Mary Tyler Moore Show, The Rockford Files, Alice, The Incredible Hulk, Diff'rent Strokes, Night Court, Growing Pains, The Golden Girls, Murder She Wrote, Who's the Boss?, Baywatch, Empty Nest, Married...With Children,* and *Seinfeld.* His most enduring roles have been those of Arthur Carlson, Station Manager on *WKRP in Cincinnati*, and as the successor to character actor Jesse White as the Maytag spokesman, *The Lonely Maytag Repairman.*

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Main Hallway

The doorway at the end of the servants' hall leads to the top of the grand stairway. Down the hallway to the east were the former suites of the four Grant family members.

There was a large closet on the outside of the hallway and two "secret cubbyhole" linen closets that opened with a push.

Opposite the cubbyhole, the large door in the hall leads up concrete stairs to the attic that stretches over the entire house. Steel I-beams are exposed in the attic.

Daughter's Suite

At the far end of the hallway were the doors to Mrs. Grant's and daughter Thirza's suites. Thirza's room was done in pink and blue, her favorite colors. All rooms on the second floors had high ceilings. Later, the church closed the upper ceilings for heat conservation. Thirza's ceiling was restored to reveal the original details when church members refinished the paneling. The area was enhanced by mirrors in the bath and over the fireplace in the sitting room. The closet in the bedroom has the automatic switch for a light that Grant put in all closets. The floor, like all those on the second floor, was two layers of tongue-in-groove oak laid perpendicularly to each other over six-inch concrete subflooring. This provides warmth and give to the step. (This type of flooring was used in the dining room, living room, library and other rooms where slate seemed too cold.)

Pull down screens, like window shades, hidden inside the window frame could be drawn down along a thin track as needed. These were installed throughout the mansion.

Today this suite of rooms is reserved for brides who are having a wedding at the church. The small folding make-up table between the bathroom and closet was originally Thirza's.

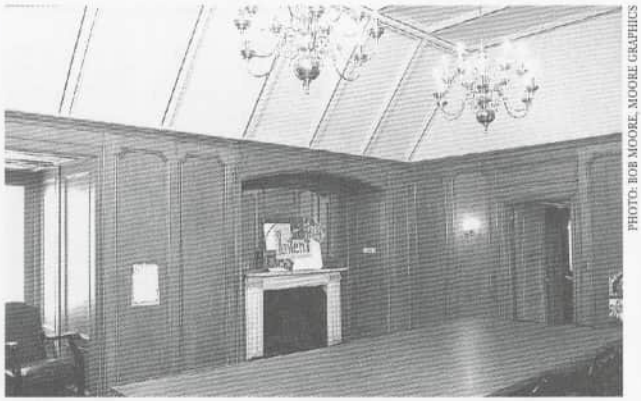


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Thirza's room shows the original height of the ceilings. The pine paneling is original as is the mirror over the fireplace.

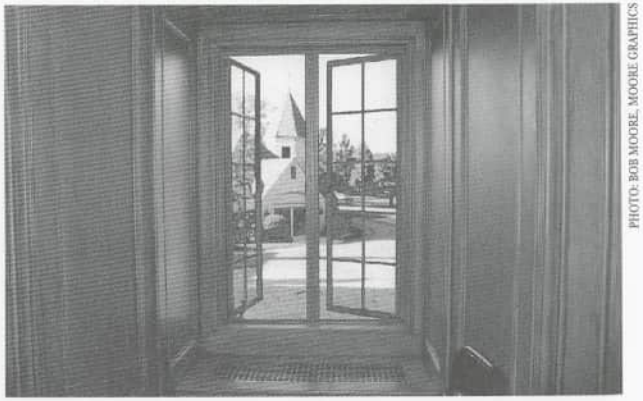


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Thirza's room was the only one of the four which faced the driveway turnaround. The sill plate had a heating and cooling vent.

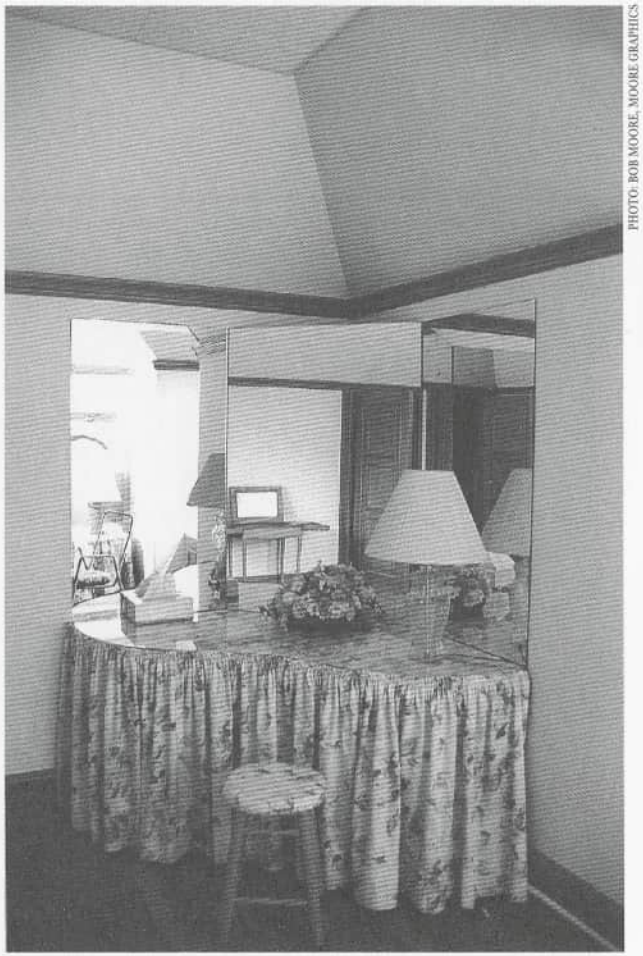


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

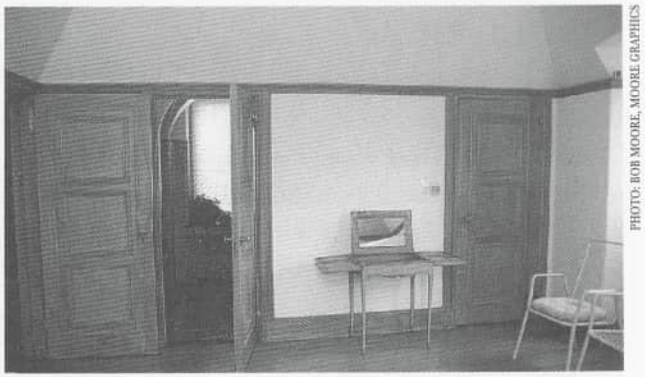


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Above, In the bedroom portion of the suite is Thirza's original French folding make-up table between the bathroom and walk-in closet.
Left, a dressing table is provided for brides who are married in the church.
Right, the bathroom of pink and blue Dutch Delftware remains relatively unchanged since the 1930s.



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PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

The fireplace in the sitting room of Mr. Grant's suite, circa 1950.



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Thirza's fireplace, also shown above, far left, circa 1950.



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC. SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

The fireplace within Mrs. Grant's bedroom, circa 1950.



Detailed photographs of Thirza and Laura Grant extracted from the photograph above.

Mrs. Grant's Suite

Mrs. Grant's suite was the first door on the left. Her bedroom and sitting room are now the church office. The bath was all black marble. Today the tub is covered over for office usage. Her jewelry safe was one of the four in the mansion: a walk-in silver safe, one in the library, and a wine safe in the basement.

Mrs. Grant's room actually began ten feet into the room. The area to the right was her closet. Twice a year the servants would take her clothing up to the attic's large built-in cedar closet and bring down the next season's clothing.

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Mr. Grant's Suite

The fireplace in Mrs. Grant's suite was back-to-back with Mr. Grant's bedroom fireplace.

Mr. Grant's room adjoined his wife's with a small three-foot space separating their adjoining rooms. Here was a master control panel that controlled all the mansion's exterior lights. This allowed Grant ultimate control of the estate's outside lights. A similar panel was in the kitchen area downstairs. *(See photo on page 170.)* There was another control panel that called the servants. Both room doors had a panel that could be slipped down to keep any light from showing into the other room.

Mr. Grant's room appears just as it did then, including his double-sided desk. His bath and an adjoining guest bath were converted into a small meeting room.

The upstairs hallway by the small stairway has two holes in the floor and a sealed gateway in the railing of the stairway. It was the remains of a one-person elevator that went down to the basement. Mrs. Grant's stroke and Mr. Grant's kidney operation made it difficult for them to negotiate so many stairs. After the church purchased the home, the elevator was removed to comply with state building codes.

The guest room is just as it was and today is used as an office for the assistant pastor.

Son's Suite

At the end of the hallway was the entrance to the son's, Richard H. Grant, Jr.'s, suite of rooms.

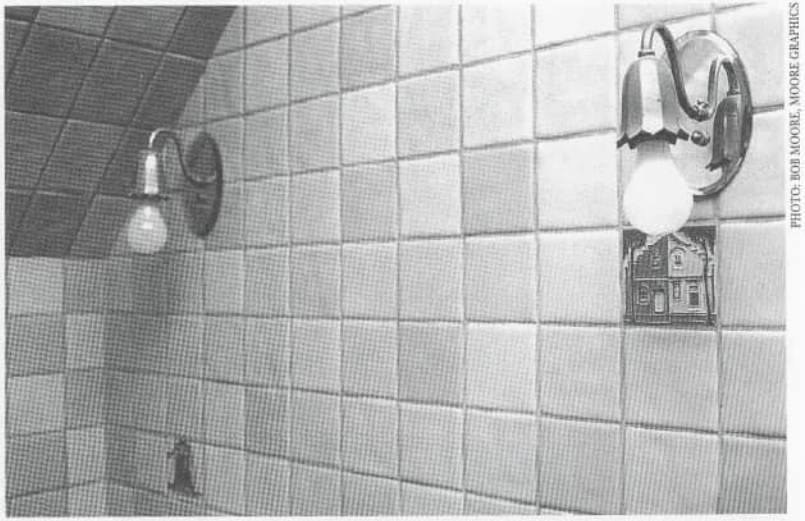


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Varying shades of Dutch Delftware tiles, along with heated towel racks, dual sinks, and a built in scale were just a few of the amenities in the son's bathroom

There was a fireplace in the son's sitting room with shelves by the fireplace. The room is currently divided by accordion folding doors. During Richard Grant, Jr.'s, tenure there was a large closet in the bedroom area creating a suite. The closet's outline still shows on the flooring. The bath was tiled



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL PHOTOS, INC., SOURCE: LIZ SCHROEDER COLLECTION

Guest room fireplace, circa 1950. This room adjoined Mr. Grant's suite.

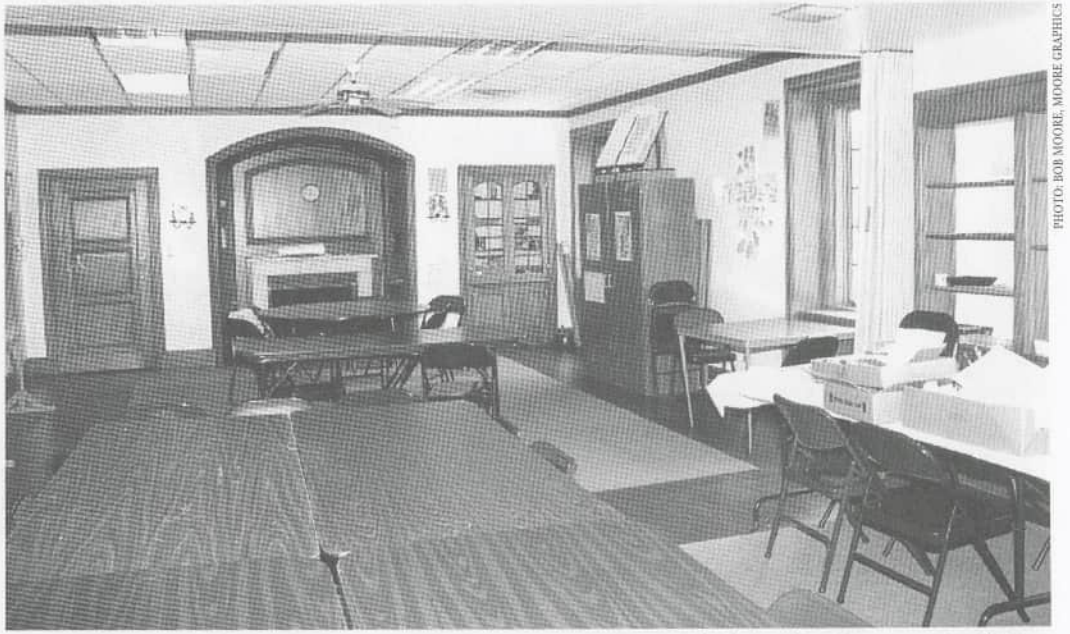


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Richard Grant, Jr.'s, suite had built in cabinets and bookshelves. Marks on the floor near the folding room separator show where the closet created two rooms in what now is a craft room, 2001.

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PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

All the appointments of the Grand Stairway are handmade including the windows.

to the ceiling with Dutch Delftware tile. There were two sinks before the church substituted one for a janitor's sink. The shower in this bath was one of four ten-headed showers in the mansion—quite invigorating. The built-in scales still work. Over the blue tub was the heated towel bar, an English tradition.

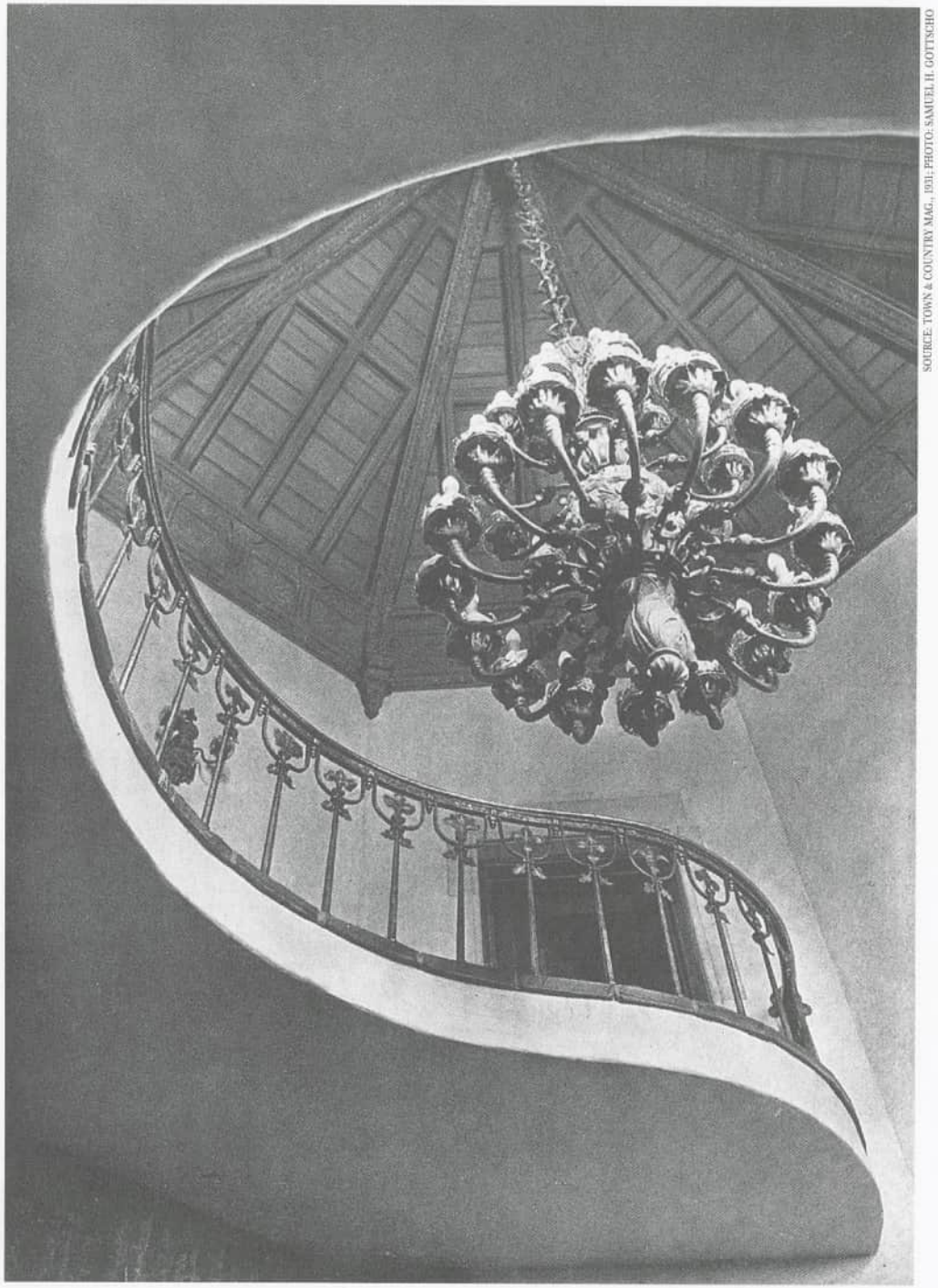
THE GRAND STAIRWAY

To the left of the son's room was the stairway tower which has hand-carved balustrades. The banister is English nickel and needs no polishing. These stairs go all the way to the basement.

The chandelier in the tower has thirty-six cups of English pewter, all handmade. Hand-forged chains hold the chandelier. The candle sconces are Italian period pieces and the window plaques are English and original. Seventy-year-old oriental carpeting is also original. There is the mariner's compass showing true north in natural slate on the main floor.



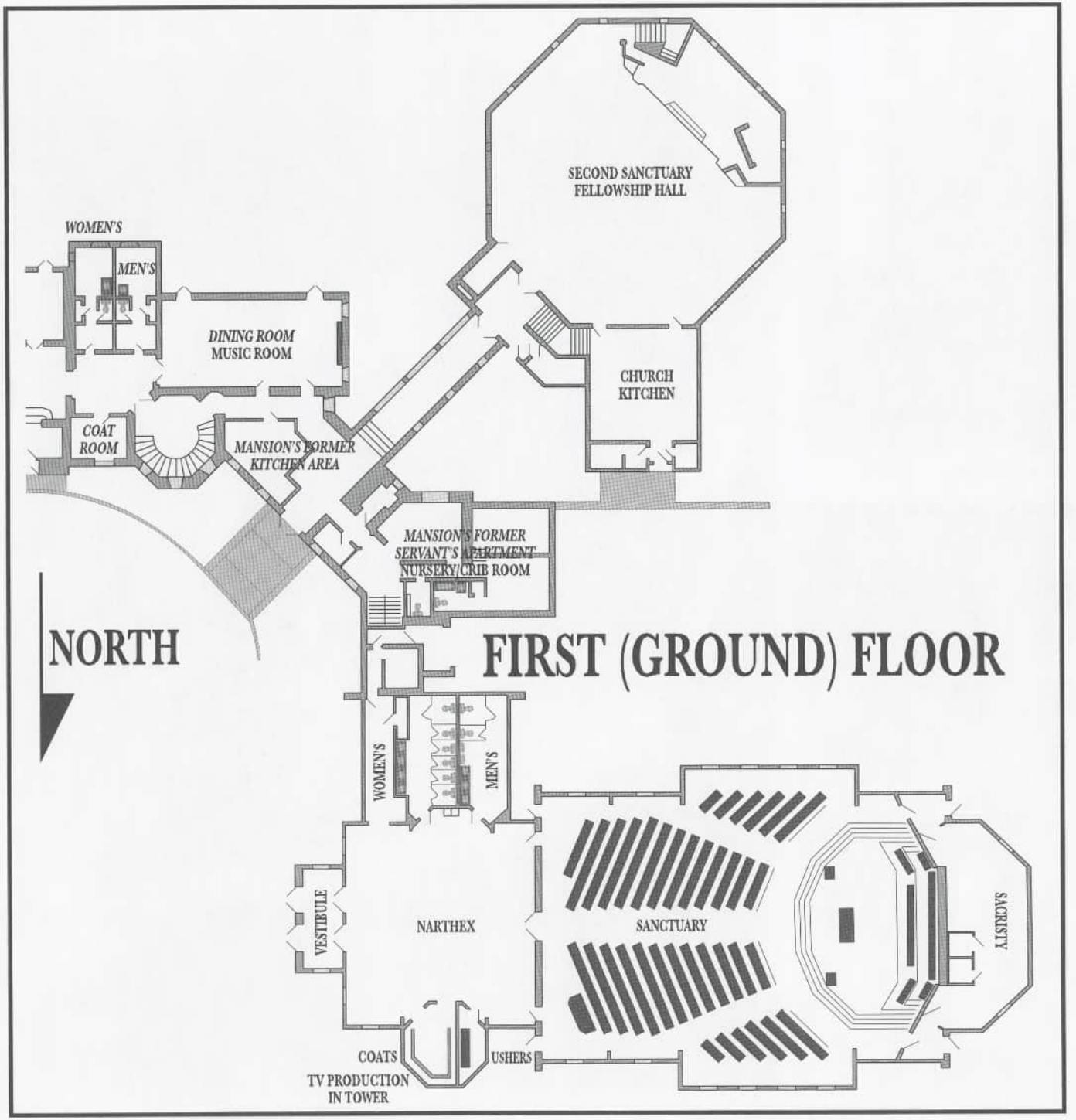
PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAG., 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

The pewter chandelier cups, nickel railing and wrought iron balustrades blend with the dark and light slate of the mariner's compass on the floor.

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First Floor
Guest Lounges off the Great Hall

The men's and women's restrooms, leading off the Great Hall to a foyer on the west end, were built for the use of the many guests entertained by the Grants. Each restroom has a lounge with settee, washbasin, and full-length mirror, a decorating touch Mrs. Grant used extensively throughout the house. Each restroom also had its own cloakroom.

On the opposite side of the Great Hall from the restrooms was a former coatroom, which is now used by the church's music department.

Dining Room (Church's Music Room)

A double door off the west foyer leads to the current Music Room which was once the Grants' Dining Room. The fireplace is genuine Chippendale, imported from Belgrave House in London and carved of Italian Carrara marble. The andirons are antique. The floor is pegged in this room. In the center of the room are two metal plates—one was the bell to call for the next course, and the other was an outlet for a foodwarmer. The wall panels that are now papered once held French paintings which the Grants had found in a French chateau. On either side of the door leading to the water fountain are two of those paintings recessed by Cincinnati Art Museum staff members. Because the paintings could not be safely removed without damaging the canvas when the Grants moved out, they were left for the church. The buffet table was also left, as were other tables throughout the hallway.

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PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

White Italian Carrara mantelpiece with antique andirons.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The room currently serves as the church's music room and as a meeting room.



SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAG., 1931; PHOTO: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO

The Dining Room was filled with light from the south and each upper panel was filled with French paintings from a chateau, 1931.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

Two of the French panels still remain.



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The Dining Room was so large that the scale of the room dwarfed an ordinary Sheraton buffet. The Grants were able to find a larger buffet, one of three that had been made for a King of England. On one trip to England Mr. Grant was fortunate enough to buy a set of Spode china that had been made for the British ambassador to Germany. The two swinging doors led to the Kitchen.

Former Kitchen Area

The kitchen was fully outfitted with stainless steel, tile, and two authentic ship galley stoves (costing $3500, one electric, one gas). Marble countertops made the European influence evident throughout this room. Located in this room were master lighting controls for the entire exterior of the mansion. Also, there was a parallel lighting panel in the master bedroom suite. Adjacent to the kitchen were the laundry facilities and Sexton apartment which served the early church as assistant minister's apartment and is the church nursery now. The former kitchen, called the Galley, is now the hallway to the Fellowship Hall.

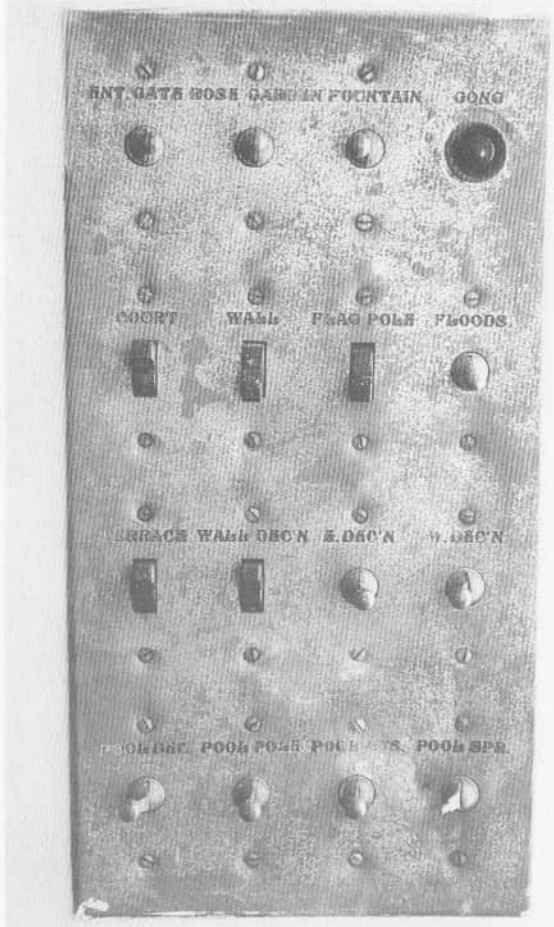


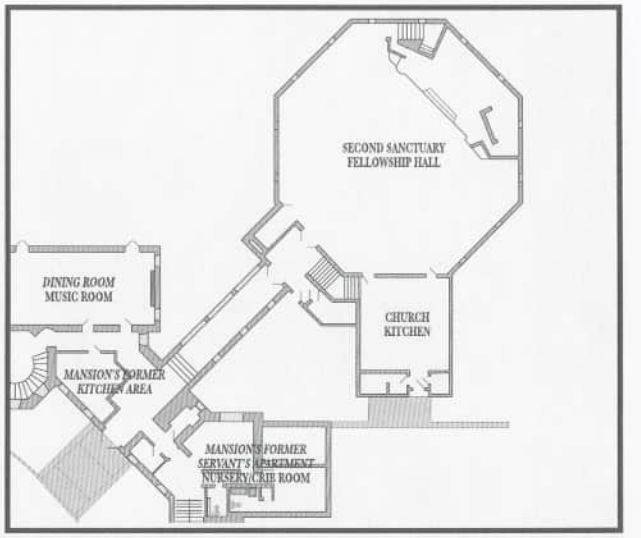
PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

One of two master exterior light panels. The other was in the hallway between Mr. and Mrs. Grants' bedroom suites.

Fellowship Hall

As church attendance increased, the Grant chapel (former living room) became too small to accommodate the services. The congregation decided to construct a new sanctuary, which could be used later as a fellowship hall, adding it to the southwest portion of the building off the former kitchen area. Ground was broken May 13, 1962 for the new sanctuary that would cost approximately $250,000.

An entranceway foyer was adapted from the former kitchen with double wooden doors leading from the driveway turnaround. Inside the west wing there was a cloakroom and a hallway leading from the new front doors through the former kitchen to the addition. The original Ship Room wall lighting sconces made from



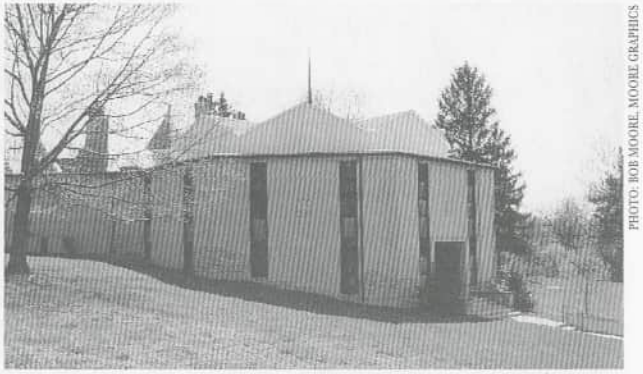


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

In 1962 when the Normandy congregation determined a need for more space, the members decided expansion to the west edge of the terrace would create minimal disruption to the existing building lines. Hart and Hart were the architects on the project and Robert Koepne sculpted the outside plaques, commemorating the expansion.

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wrought iron and pewter were moved to the hallway which led to the new Fellowship Hall.

A newer kitchen was added on the upper level to the west of the new fellowship hall since the connection to the old mansion meant removal of the old kitchen. Having the kitchen in the addition also fit the anticipated use of the upper room as a Fellowship Hall when a more appropriate sanctuary could be constructed.

The octagon shaped building was originally designed to seat approximately 325 people. More Sunday School rooms were added in the basement level under the Sanctuary and restrooms were also built on the basement level to accommodate the increased attendance.

From the Sunday School classrooms in the basement level was a doorway onto the lower south lawn and lower parking lot. The congregation moved the handcrafted wrought iron and pewter ship chandelier from the Ship Room to the center of the temporary sanctuary. Its indirect lighting reflects off a lightly painted octagon.

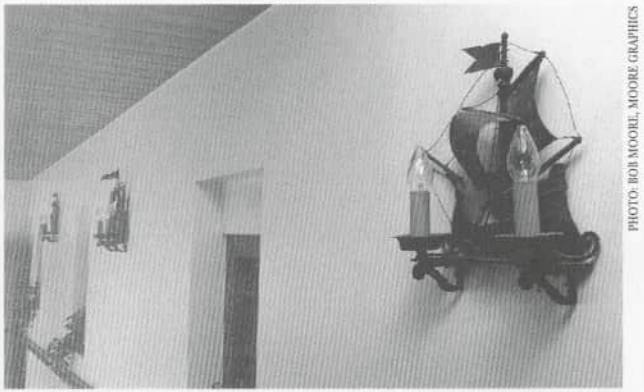


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The sconces from the Ship Room (recreation room in the basement) were moved to the hallway leading to the fellowship hall when it was completed in 1963.

On June 2, 1963, Bishop Paul Herrick and Dr. William K. Messmer dedicated the new sanctuary. Seating capacity was actually 340 persons.

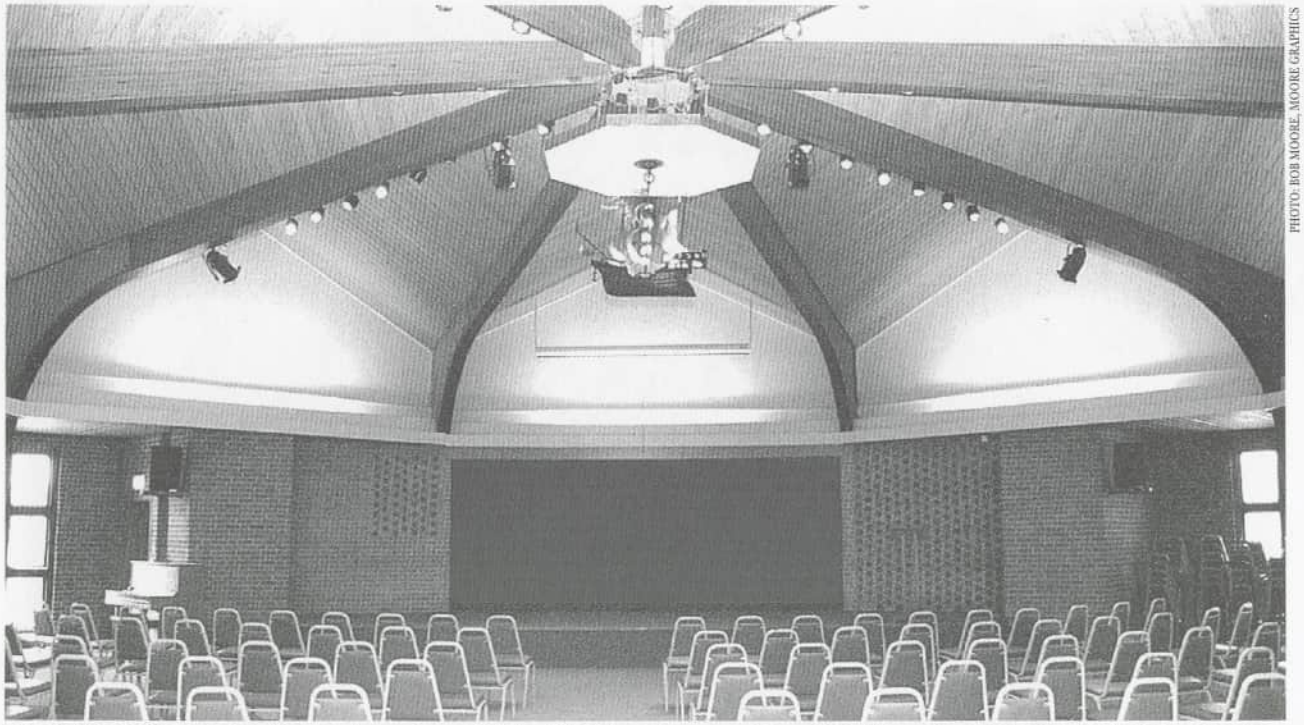


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Fellowship Hall served as the sanctuary from 1963 to 1997. See color page 111, which shows the original stained glass windows.

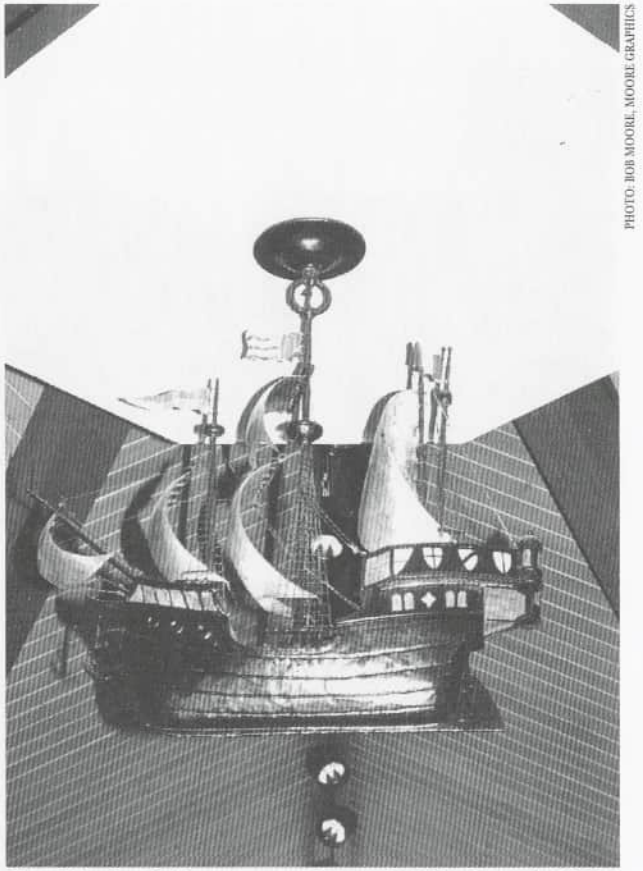


PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The ship chandelier was moved from the Ship Room in 1963.

New Sanctuary

On February 15, 1996, to keep up with growing enrollment, the Normandy Church Conference membership voted to build a more appropriate and spacious sanctuary and then voted to renovate the octagonal sanctuary as a Fellowship Hall. Groundbreaking ceremonies took place March 24, 1996. *(See photo on page 111.)* West Ohio Resident Bishop, Judith Craig, consecrated this new sanctuary on January 12, 1997. The seating capacity was then expanded to 380. A large narthex was included. New and larger restrooms, a coat hall, an ushers' room, and a stairway up the tower to the television and sound control room were added.

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PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The back of the New Sanctuary was built into the space formerly occupied by the autocourt with 3-car garage adjacent to the former service doors and servants' quarters.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

* * *

CONCLUSION

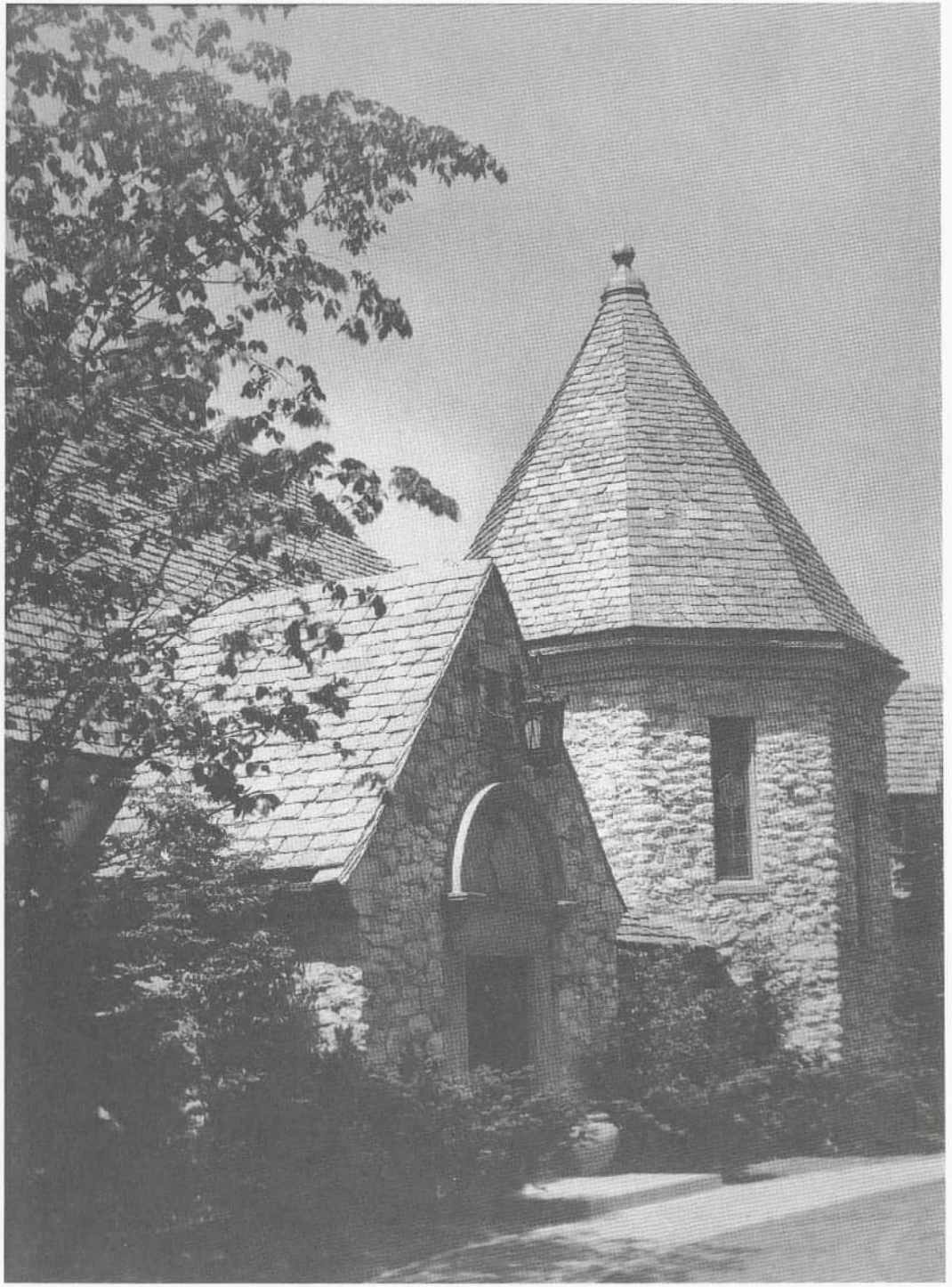
The byword was excellence not opulence. The concept was traditional which was demonstrated by the smallest attention to detail. The Grants' abiding respect for time-honored construction and landscaping was evident in the greatness of their estate.



PHOTO: BOB MOORE, MOORE GRAPHICS

The new sanctuary was consecrated in 1997.

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Appendices

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Timelines
1860 - 2000

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1860s

PRESIDENT


James Buchanan


Abraham Lincoln


Andrew Johnson

POLITICS

South Carolina secedes after Lincoln's election.

American Civil War, 1861-1865

Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation

General William Sherman burns Atlanta and makes his March to the Sea

The Austro-Italian war is ended by the Treaty of Vienna

Disraeli became British prime minister later succeeded by Gladstone

U.S. buys Alaska for $7.2 million from Russia

Canada purchases Northwest Territory from Hudson Bay Co.

April 12. With attack on Fort Sumter, Carolina, Civil War begins

January 1. Emancipation Proclamation takes effect

April 9. Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox, Virginia ending the Civil War

Spanish Revolution, 1868-1869

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

Kansas becomes a state

Union turns tide of Civil War with victory at Gettysburg

Red Cross founded in Geneva, Switzerland

13th Constitutional Amendment abolishes slavery

Dominion of Canada created by British

Suez Canal opens

Grant elected President

First federal income tax enacted by Congress

April 14. Lincoln is assassinated

Alfred Nobel invents dynamite

President Lincoln proclaims first Thanksgiving National Holiday

Pony Express begins Missouri to California mail delivery

Trade unions organized in Manchester, England

First transatlantic cable laid

Louis Pasteur invents pasteurization

Periodic table of chemistry created by Mendelyev

First machine gun patented by Richard Gatling

Steel is created by H.C. Sorby

Robert Whitehead invents underwater torpedo

Lion Focault measures speed of light

First oil pipeline constructed in Pennsylvania

Dr. Livingston explores the Congo

ARTS/CULTURE

Louisa Alcott writes *Little Women*

Lewis Carroll writes *Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*

Jules Verne writes *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*

Victor Hugo publishes *Les Misérables*

Dostoyevsky writes *Crime and Punishment*

Leo Tolstoy writes *War and Peace*

Johann Strauss composes *Blue Danube* waltz

Mark Twain writes *Innocents Abroad*

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

Lucius Reynolds and brother-in-law James Gardner start printing company which would become Reynolds & Reynolds (R&R) (p. 16)

Ira Reynolds, Lucius' father buys James Gardner's share of the printing company which would become Reynolds & Reynolds Company (p. 16)





1860 1861 1862 1863 1864 1865 1866 1867 1868 1869

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1870s

PRESIDENT



Ulysses S. Grant



Rutherford B. Hayes

POLITICS

The 15th Amendment guarantees right to vote to all U.S. citizens. Only Wyoming and Utah allow women's suffrage

Labor unions are legalized by British Parliament

Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)

General Amnesty Act in U.S. pardons ex-Confederates

Financial panic in New York and Vienna

Disraeli becomes British prime minister

June 25. Custer and his 265 troops killed at Little Big Horn, Montana, by Sioux Indians

Queen Victoria becomes Empress of India

Germany enacts anti-socialist law

British annex Transvaal in South Africa

England defeats the Zulus in South Africa

Korea becomes independent of China with Korean-Japanese treaty

Russo-Turkish War, (1876-1878)

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

Paris revolt and proclamation of Third Republic

New York Times exposes William "Boss" Tweed and Tammany Hall scandal

Phillippinos rebel against Spanish rule

Republic proclaimed in Spain

Iceland becomes independent from Denmark

New Yorker Richard M. Hoe invents rotary printing press

German Nikolaus Otto invents internal combustion engine

John D. Rockefeller founds Standard Oil Company

Yellowstone National Park created

Thomas Edison invents phonograph

DeLesseps founds the French Panama Canal Company

Stanley finds Livingston in Africa

Color photographs first developed

Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone

German Karl Benz invents motorized tricycle

First graduate studies in U.S introduced at Harvard and Yale

Maxwell writes the principles of *Electricity and Magnetism*

First Kentucky Derby held at Churchill Downs, Kentucky

Thomas Edison invents the electric light bulb

ARTS/CULTURE

Charles Darwin writes *The Descent of Man*

Edward Muybridge produces short movies from serial photos of horse

In U.S., Pressure-cooking introduced by H. Solomon for canning foods

Henry James writes *The American*

Mark Twain writes *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Repeater rifle invented by Mannlicher

Jules Verne writes *Around the World in 80 Days*

San Francisco installs first cable cars

Bizet writes opera *Carmen*

Sculpture *Bronze Age* completed by Auguste Rodin

Henrik Ibsen writes *A Doll's House*

Verdi composes *Aida*

Claude Monet coins "Impressionism" with his painting *Sunrise*

Professional baseball's National League established

Tolstoi writes *Anna Karenina*

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

June 27, 1872. Poet Paul Laurence Dunbar born in Dayton

Brahms composes *Hungarian Dances*

November 26, 1878. Richard H. Grant, Sr. born in Ipswich, Massachusetts (p. 2)



1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879

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1880s

PRESIDENT


James A. Garfield


Chester A. Arthur


Grover Cleveland

POLITICS

W. Gladstone replaces Benjamin Disraeli as British Prime Minister

July 2. President Garfield assassinated in Washington D.C. Dies Sept. 20

Egypt comes under British control

The volcano Krakatoa erupts in Indonesia

African affairs conference of 14 nations meets in Berlin

Cornerstone laid for the Statue of Liberty

Congo becomes possession of Belgium King Leopold II

American Federation of Labor (AFL) formed in Columbus, Ohio

Statue of Liberty dedicated in New York harbor

Queen Victoria celebrates Golden Jubilee

William II becomes emperor of Germany

February 22. Four states, North and South Dakota, Montana, and Washington admitted to the union

Great Blizzard of '88 kills 400 people in New York

May 31 Johnstown, Pennsylvania flood kills thousands

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

The Salvation Army within America founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

J.D. Rockefeller creates the Standard Oil Trust

First 10-story "skyscraper", Home Insurance Building is erected in Chicago

After 36 years of construction Washington Monument completed

British host First Colonial Conference in London

Jack the Ripper murders six women in London

Clara Barton founds the American Red Cross

Brooklyn Bridge opened in New York City

George Eastman produces photographic paper

Congress creates first federal regulatory agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission

The French Panama Canal Company goes bankrupt

English engineer Maxim patents machine gun

Louis Pasteur discovers chicken cholera vaccine

Orient Express begins rail service from Paris to Istanbul

First underground railroad, *the Tube,* opens in London

Aluminum is created by electrolysis

George Eastman markets the first Kodak box camera

The British South African Company under Cecil Rhodes is granted a royal charter

Nicholas Tesla constructs first electric motor

Booker T. Washington founds Tuskegee Institute in Alabama

Standard time zones established by the railroads in North America

Benz builds first motor car gasoline engine

Goodwin invents celluloid film

J. Dunlop invents the pneumatic tire

The Eiffel Tower is completed in Paris by Gustave Eiffel

In Wisconsin, Thomas Edison creates first hydroelectric plant

ARTS/CULTURE

Dostoyevsky writes *Brothers Karamazov*

Ohio River flood devastates Cincinnati

Nietzsche writes *Beyond Good and Evil*

Radio waves are identified by Hertz

Thomas H. Huxley writes *Agnosticism*

Tchaikovsky composes *1812 Overture*

Karl Marx writes volume two of *Das Kapital*

Gilbert and Sullivan write the light opera *Ruddigore*

National Geographic Society formed in Washington D.C.

First college football all-Americans chosen

Sculpture *The Thinker* completed by Auguste Rodin

Robert Louis Stevenson writes *Treasure Island*

Mark Twain publishes *Huckleberry Finn*

Robert Louis Stevenson writes *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Vincent Van Gogh paints *The Yellow Chair*

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

October 8, 1883. Laura Grant born in Dayton, Ohio (p. 3)

September 1889. Lucius Reynolds incorporates Reynolds & Reynolds Company (p. 16)



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1890s

PRESIDENT



Benjamin Harrison



Grover Cleveland



William McKinley

POLITICS

July 2. Congress passes the Sherman Antitrust Act

July 10. Wyoming is admitted to United States as the first state with women's' suffrage

Russia suffers major famine

Immigrants begin to flow into Ellis Island in New York

William Gladstone becomes Prime Minister of Great Britain

World Exhibition in Chicago, Illinois

June 27. New York stock market crash touches off the Panic of 1893

Congress enacts first peacetime federal income tax

J.P. Morgan, billionaire banker, bails out U.S. Treasury as gold reserves dwindle

Gold discovered in Klondike

February 15. Spanish American War begins after sinking of the *Maine* in Havana harbor

Philippines revolts against the U.S.

Spanish American War, 1898-1899

December 10. Treaty of Paris. U.S. takes Cuba, Guam, Philippines, Puerto Rico and Wake Island from Spain

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

Yosemite National Park created

Thomas Edison patents the first American-made motion picture camera

Pullman strike cripples American railroad system

Cuba begins insurrection against Spain

First modern Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece

Klondike Gold Rush in full swing

R. Ross discovers malaria bacillus

December 29. Sioux defeated at the Battle of Wounded Knee

First gasoline-powered automobile produced in America is made Chicopee, Massachusetts

Thomas Edison exhibits his kinetoscope in U.S. while Frenchman Louis Lumiere invents cinematograph

Marconi invents radio telegraphy

Becquerel discovers radioactivity

Radium discovered by Marie and Pierre Curie

William McKinley becomes the first president to ride in an automobile

In the U.S., W. Judson invents the clothing zipper

Karl Benz in Germany and Henry Ford in U.S. build the first four-wheel cars

Roentgen discovers X-rays

Boston completes first American subway

Moving picture shows premiere in New York City

Henry Ford builds his first automobile

First magnetic sound recording

George Ferris invents the Ferris Wheel

Count von Zeppelin builds his first airship

The first steel-framed buildings in the U.S. are erected

Dr. James Naismith invents basketball

The diesel engine is patented by Rudolf Diesel

Gillette invents safety razor

First aspirin manufactured

ARTS/CULTURE

Claude Monet paints *The Rouen Cathedral*

Rudyard Kipling writes *The Jungle Book*

Marconi invents radio telegraphy

Puccini composes opera *La Bohème*

H.G. Wells writes *War of the Worlds*

Art Nouveau movement comes to the forefront in France

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle writes *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*

Toulouse-Lautrec produces his music hall posters

Benjamin Kidd writes *Social Revolution*

H.G. Wells writes *The Time Machine*

Rodin completes sculpture *Victor Hugo*

Oscar Wilde writes *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Verdi composes opera *Falstaff*

First American motion pictures in theaters

Oscar Wilde writes *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

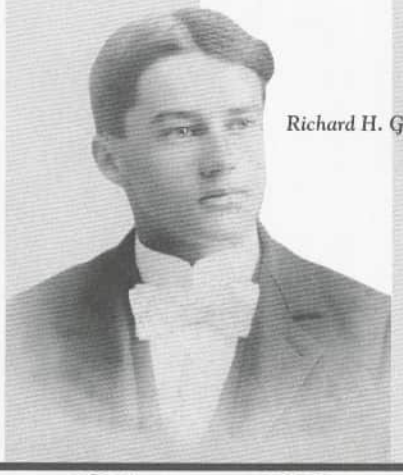
Tchaikovsky composes his suite, *The Nutcracker*

Tchaikovsky writes ballet *Swan Lake*

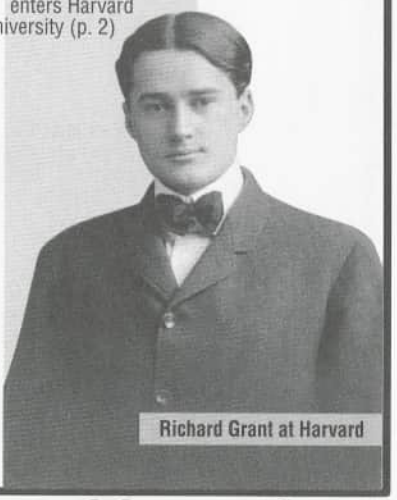
September 1898. Richard Grant enters Harvard University (p. 2)

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

Poet Paul Laurence Dunbar publishes first book of poetry *Oak and Ivy*



Richard H. Grant, Sr.



Richard Grant at Harvard

1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899

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1900s

PRESIDENT



Theodore Roosevelt

POLITICS

With infusion of Klondike Gold Rush, U.S. returns to gold standard

Commonwealth of Australia created

Boxer Rebellion against foreign influence in China begins

September 6. McKinley shot in Buffalo, New York

New President Theodore Roosevelt says "speak softly and carry a big stick"

Great Pennsylvania Coal Strike mediated by President Roosevelt

U.S. gains control over Panama Canal

Roosevelt negotiates treaty to complete Panama Canal

To keep other powers out of western hemisphere, Roosevelt Corollary is applied to Monroe Doctrine

Helen Keller graduates from Radcliffe with honors

Norway separates from Sweden

Mutiny of the Russian battleship *Potemkin*

5:12 AM, April 18 Great San Francisco earthquake

Congress passes Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act

U.S. gets a record 1,285,349 immigrants in one year

Baden Powell founds Boy Scouts

President Roosevelt first American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize

Union of South Africa established

Congo become a Belgium colony

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) formed by W.E.B. DuBois

Expedition led by Peary plants U.S. flag at the North Pole

Federal Bureau of Investigation established

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

Olds Company opens first Detroit auto company

Marconi transmits first telegraphic messages via radio

In U.S., Poulson invents the arc generator

Henry Ford establishes Ford Motor Company

Rolls-Royce Company founded

Einstein writes *Special Theory of Relativity*

Pavlov discovers "conditioned response"

In U.S., L.H. Baekeland creates bakelite (an early plastic)

English Channel crossed by aviator Louis Bleriot

Max Plank creates Quantum Theory

Wilbur and Orville Wright achieve first powered flight (see below)

Magnetic North Pole's position determined by Amundsen

First Ford Model T comes to market

First Mercedes built by Maybach

Monet paints *Waterloo Bridge*

First New York subway opened

Lumiere develops color photography

GM formed (see below)

ARTS/CULTURE

Freud publishes *The Interpretation of Dreams*

Chekhov writes *Three Sisters*

First feature length movie *The Great Train Robbery*

Cezanne paints *Les Grandes Baigneuses*

Upton Sinclair writes *The Jungle*

First cubist exhibit in Paris

Frank Lloyd Wright builds Robie House in Chicago

J. Barrie writes *Peter Pan*

February 6, 1906. Paul Laurence Dunbar dies of tuberculosis at 33

Montgomery writes *Anne of Green Gables*

First Nobel prizes awarded

Jack London writes *The Sea Wolf*

Caruso makes his first recording

Puccini composes opera *Tosca*

The Merry Widow operetta written by Lehar

July 21, 1909 Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company (DELCO) incorporated (p. 5)

First baseball World Series. Boston beats Pittsburgh

July 23, 1908 "Barn Gang" invents first reliable electric ignition system (p. 5)

Puccini composes opera *Madame Butterfly*

September 1, 1906 R. H. Grant marries Laura Elinor Williams in Dayton (p. 3)

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

December 17, 1903 Daytonian Wright Brothers achieve first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina (p. 6)

Grant began work as salesman in the book department of Jordan Marsh Company (p. 2)



RHG, Sr. & Laura

1904 Grant moves to Dayton and goes to work at National Cash Register Company (p. 2)

September 9, 1908 Thirza Elinor Grant born to Richard and Laura Grant (p. 3)

1901-1904 Grant works in sales for New England Telephone & Telegraph Company (p. 2)

Sep. 1908-Dec. 1909 William Durant begins acquisition and consolidation of General Motors (p. 6)

GM Pres. George E. Daniels, 09/22/08-10/20/08

GM Pres. William M. Eaton 10/20/08-11/23/10

June 1901. Richard Grant graduates from Harvard University (p. 2)

Richard Grant at Harvard

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1910s

PRESIDENT



William Howard Taft



Woodrow Wilson

POLITICS

Mexican Revolution

Boy Scouts of America chartered

April 15. Titanic sinks during maiden voyage

Chinese Republic formed as Manchu dynasty falls

16th Constitutional amendment empowers government collection of income tax

Panama Canal opened

Gandhi returns to India

May 7. Germans sink Lusitania with 128 Americans aboard

Irish revolt suppressed

Wilson declares "world must be made safe for democracy"

Nov 11. Armistice Day ends World War I

Jan 29. Eighteenth Amendment begins Prohibition

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

Glacier National Park created

Supreme Court upholds antitrust breakup of Standard Oil Company

Arizona and New Mexico become states

Ford implements the production line at his motor car factory

U.S. declares neutrality in World War I

Einstein postulates his *General Theory of Relativity*

General John J. Pershing chases Pancho Villa back into Mexico

Russian Revolution begins

Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia become independent

New York to Chicago airmail route established

Congress creates the Federal Reserve System

Congress declares war on Germany and then Austria-Hungary

Hundreds of thousands die in America's influenza epidemic, 22 million worldwide

Wave of strikes in the U.S. prompt Red Scare

Marie Curie writes *Treatise on Radiography*

Massachusetts adopts first minimum wage law

Robert Goddard begins experimentation with rocketry

Refrigeration allows blood to be transfused

Trans-Siberian Railroad completed

First experiments with shortwave radio

Theory of atomic structure formulated by Rutherford

Niels Bohr formulates his theory of atomic structure

D.H. Lawrence writes *The Rainbow*

Tanks introduced

Mount Wilson telescope completed

Carl Jung writes *The Theory of Psychoanalysis*

National Park Service created

Upton Sinclair writes *King Coal*

Barney Oldfield sets land speed record of 133 mph

D.W. Griffiths premieres film *Birth of a Nation*

Gropius founds Bauhaus school of architecture

Grand Canyon National Park created

ARTS/CULTURE

G.P. Rodgers makes first transcontinental airplane flight

Philanthropic Rockefeller Foundation formed with $100 million from J. D. Rockefeller

Robert Forst writes *North to Boston*

Irving Berlin composes *Watch Your Step*

December 1917. Christmas card shows rural electrification and the first DELCO logo on the back.







Stravinsky composes *The Firebird*

Andrew Carnegie donates $125 million or philanthropy

Picasso paints *The Violin*

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

1910. Charles F. Kettering leaves NCR to become Vice President and Edward Deeds, still with NCR, becomes President of fledgling DELCO (p. 5)



EAD

January 18, 1913. R.H. Grant, Jr., born to Richard and Laura Grant (p. 3)

1913. Daytonian Al Mellows invents the water-cooled refrigerator (p. 7)



RHG, Sr.

February 1913. Lucius Reynolds dies and his son Edwin Stanton Reynolds succeeds him as President of Reynolds &Reynolds (R&R) (p. 16)

ESR,Sr.



1913. R&R becomes nationwide company and moves corporate offices to Washington Street in Dayton (p. 16)

July 1915. Grant leaves NCR to accept position as General Manager of DELCO Light Company (p. 5)

1911. Charles F. Kettering, while working at DELCO invents the automobile electric self-starter (p. 5)

CFK



May 30, 1912. Wilbur Wright dies. His brother Orville forms the Dayton-Wright Airplane Company (p. 6)

March 1913. The Great Dayton Flood (p. 4)

November 28, 1913. Tom Watson fired and replaced by Richard Grant as Sales Manager and Director of N.C.R. (p. 4, ??, ??)

August 17, 1914. Al Mellows produces his first Guardian refrigerator (p. 7)

April 12, 1916. DELCO Light Co. ships its first gas-driven electric generator for farmers (p. 6)

May 1916. United Motors acquires DELCO (p. 7)

1917. Local industries become involved in World War I war production (p. 6)

1918. William Durant purchases Guardian Frigerator Company (p. 7)

1919. GM acquires United Motors with its DELCO subsidiaries and Dayton-Wright Airplane Co., which is soon to become Inland Manufacturing (p. 7)

1919. Guardian Frigerator Company as "Frigidaire Company" bought from William Durant by GM (p. 7)

GM Pres. James J. Storrow, 11/23/10-01/26/11

GM Pres. Thomas Neal 01/26/11-11/19/12

GM Pres. Charles W. Nash, 11/19/12-06/01/16

GM Chair. of the Board (COB) Thomas Neal, 11/19/12-11/16/15

GM Pres. William C. Durant, 06/01/16-11/30/20

GM COB Pierre S. du Pont, 11/16/15-02/07/29

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919

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1920s

PRESIDENT


Warren G. Harding


Calvin Coolidge

POLITICS

League of Nations established in Geneva

August. 26. Nineteenth Amendment establishes women's suffrage

Newly elected President Warren G. Harding promises a postwar "return to normalcy"

U.S.S.R. is formed from Soviet states

In Munich, Germany, Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch fails

Hitler writes *Mein Kampf*

Hindenburg becomes President of Germany

Hirohito becomes Emperor of Japan

Germany's economic system collapses

Red Army in Hunan creates Chinese Red Army

October 23. Stock Market crash on *Black Thursday* leads U.S. into The Great Depression

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

League of Women Voters established

Inflation begins in Germany as DeutcheMark rapidly falls

Mussolini forms Fascist regime in Italy

August 2. President Harding dies mysteriously in San Francisco

Congress passes Immigration Act imposing strict national quotas

Col. Billy Mitchell advocates stronger air force and is suspended from Army

Sepember 25. Henry Ford initiates five-day workweek with eight-hour day

Sacco and Vanzetti executed in Massachusetts

First scheduled TV broadcast in New York City

St. Valentine's Day Massacre in gang wars in Chicago

May 30. Lincoln Memorial dedicated in Washington, D.C.

Calvin Coolidge becomes first President to have radio broadcast

Coast-to-coast airmail service is initiated

Scopes Trial tests evolution laws in Dayton, Tennessee

Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin

Supreme Court upholds the pocket veto

Ku Klux Klan creates terror throughout the south

Ten millionth automobile made by Ford Motor Company

May 21. Charles Lindbergh completes first solo flight from New York to Paris

Ravel composes *Bolero*

H. Rorschach devises "inkblot" test

First insulin given to diabetics

Development of quantum mechanics

Admiral Byrd and Floyd Bennett fly airship *Norge* over North Pole

Morrison introduces first quartz-crystal clocks

BBC founded

D.H. Lawrence writes *The Ladybug*

Movie *Wings* earns first best picture Oscar

Jazz Singer first major "talkie" kills silent movies

Hermann Hesse writes *Siddartha*

Insecticides are used for the first time in agriculture

Kafka writes *The Trial*

T.E. Lawrence writes *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*

October 6 Al Jolson perform in *The Jazz Singer*, first talkie motion picture

Disney creates Mickey Mouse to play the lead in cartoon *Steamboat Willie*

John Galsworthy writes *The Forsythe Saga*

H.G. Wells writes *Outline of History*

James Joyce writes *Ulysses*

Remarque writes *All Quiet on the Western Front*

ARTS/CULTURE

Classic film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*

Sinclair Lewis writes *Babbitt*

George Gershwin composes *Rhapsody in Blue*

Fitzgerald writes *The Great Gatsby*

Surrealist Manifesto

1921. Frigidaire operations brought to Dayton and put under R.H. Grant and Delco Light (p. 7)

Mid-1920s. Grant acquires his first land in Washington Township from Reynolds' family and constructs cabin Rock Creek Lodge (p. 10)

1927. Farming operations start at Normandy Farms as Grants build mansion and farm complex (p. 37)

1927-1930. Grant Mansion (now Normandy Church) is built in Washington Township; (p. vii, 10, 134)

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

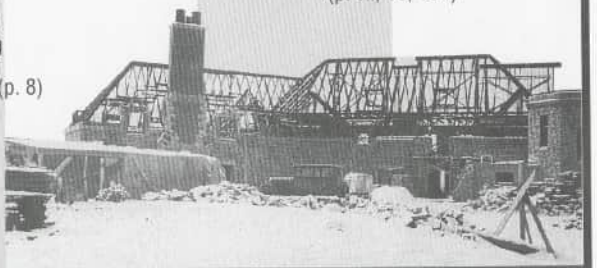
1920. Richard Grant becomes president as well as general manager of Delco Light Co. (p. 7)

1922. William Knudsen named General Manager for GM's Chevrolet Division (p. 8)



February 1, 1924. Grant promoted to Vice President and General Sales Manager for GM's Chevrolet Division (p. 8)

July 12, 1926. Frigidaire becomes a separate operating entity from DELCO Light directly under GM (p. 8)



Durant, cont'd. | GM Pres. Pierre S. du Pont, 11/30/20-05/10/23 | GM Pres. Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., 05/10/23-05/03/37

GM COB Pierre S. du Pont, continued, 11/16/15-02/07/29 | GM COB L. du Pont

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929

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1930s

PRESIDENT



Herbert Hoover



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

POLITICS

In Turkey, name of Constantinople changed to Istanbul

Spanish Republic established

More than 30 million unemployed worldwide

New President F.D. Roosevelt introduces "New Deal" and "Fireside Chats"

Dust Bowl covers midwest forcing migration of farm families

August 14. Roosevelt signs Social Security Act into law

German troops invade the Rhineland

May 6. Airship *Hindenburg* goes up in flame at Lakehurst, New Jersey

Anti-Jewish "Crystal Night" in Germany

Germany invades Poland beginning World War II

Germany and Soviets sign non-aggression pact

Star Spangled Banner becomes U.S. national anthem

France begins building the Maginot Line

Gen. Douglas MacArthur forcibly removes "the Bonus Army of ex-servicemen from Washington D.C.

Hitler appointed German chancellor and given dictatorial powers as books are burned

John Dillinger, Public Enemy #1, shot by FBI

Persia becomes Iran

Hitler and Mussolini form Berlin-Rome Axis

Chamberlain becomes Prime Minister of Britain

Hitler annexes Austria and is allowed to annex Sudetenland by Munich Conference

45,000 die in earthquake in Turkey

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

Gas turbine invented

German industrialists lend support to Nazi party

Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO) formed

December 30. CIO auto workers begin Flint Michigan sit down strike

Hungarian Lajos Biro invents the ballpoint pen

Radar first used in Britain

Empire State Building completed

Autobahn (first freeway) constructed in Germany

Guernica bombed during Spanish Civil War, Picasso paints his interpretation *Guernica*

Nylon stockings first hit market

Planet Pluto is discovered

Stock market drops to 10 percent of its 1929 value

Japan withdraws from League of Nations

In Britain BBC begins television service

E. Lawrence invents the cyclotron

Chadwick discovers neutron as Anderson discover the positron

Robert W. Watt builds first radar device

Chaplin releases movie *Modern Times*

Golden Gate bridge is completed in San Francisco

Film has banner year with release of *The Wizard of Oz, Stagecoach, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, Gone with the Wind. Grapes of Wrath and Fantasia* in production

ARTS/CULTURE

Psychologist Adler writes *The Inferiority Complex*

March 22 Beer and wine made legal again

Movie *It Happened One Night* wins best picture Oscar

George and Ira Gershwin write *Porky and Bess*

Margaret Mitchell writes *Gone with the Wind*

January 16. Benny Goodman brings Big Band Swing to Carnegie Hall

In film *La Grand Illusion* and Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*

Pearl Buck writes *The Good Earth*

W.H. Carothers synthesizes nylon

Huxley writes *Brave New World*

Amelia Earhart becomes first woman to cross Atlantic

John Steinbeck writes *Tortilla Flat*

July 1938. Grants participate in waterworks dedication, a project partially funded by Grant (p. 48)

Film *Blue Angel* wins first Oscar

October 1939. Normandy Farms hosts cornhusking contest and colt show (p. 46, 48)

February 1930. Russell Elliott assumes management (for three decades) of Normandy Farms (p. 37)

1931. *Town & Country* magazine does article on Grant Mansion. (p. vii)

1934. R.H. Grant elected to GM Board of Directors (p. 16)

November 1933. Grant's early career profiled in *Fortune* magazine article. (p. 3)

October 1938. Normandy Farms hosts cornhusking contest and colt show (p. 46, 48)

1935. Edwin S. Reynolds passes away in Florida. E.S. Reynolds, Jr., (Grant's son-in-law) assumes Presidency of R&R. Grant buys more Reynolds' land in Washington Township. (p. 16)

1937. Gail King Grant born to Richard Grant, Jr., and Helen in New York City, New York (p. 17)

1939. Richard H. Grant, III, born to R.H. Grant, Jr., and Helen in Dayton (p. 17)

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS



Laura Grant at Normandy Gate Mansion in background

June 21, 1930. Grants' host housewarming at Normandy Farms mansion (p. 12)



1934 Chevy

1935, R.H. Grant, Jr., marries Helen Slack King. (p. 16)

November 21, 1938. Grant family acquires controlling interest in R&R. Richard Grant, Sr., becomes Chairman of the Board. (p. vii, 16)

November 21, 1938. Grant family buys remaining Reynolds' farm land in Washington Township (p. 16)

GM Pres. Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., cont'd., 05/10/23-05/03/37

GM COB Lammot du Pont, cont'd., 02/07/29-05/03/37

GM Pres. William S. Knudsen, 05/03/37-09/03/40

GM COB Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., 05/03/37-04/02/56

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939

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1940s

PRESIDENT



Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Harry S. Truman

POLITICS

Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Great Britain

December 7. 2,400 Americans killed in Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor setting off worldwide war (WWII)

Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin hold Teheran Conference

U.S. and Great Britain invade Sicily then remainder of Italy

June 6. D-Day begins in Normandy, France. Allies break across France in late July

Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin hold Yalta Conference

March 5. Churchill gives his famous speech coining the term "Iron Curtain" in Missouri

Secretary of State George C. Marshall announces Marshall Plan for reconstructing postwar Europe

New state of Israel is formed. 205,000 war refugees enter from Europe

Mao Tse-tung proclaims People's Republic of China

World War II engulfs Europe as United States moves from neutrality to non-belligerency

World War II, 1941-1945

Twenty-one nation Peace Conference in Paris

House Un-American Activities Committee begins investigating Hollywood communism

Apartheid established in South Africa

Roosevelt and Churchill sign Atlantic Charter as U.S. moves closer to war

Roosevelt creates War Production Board headed by Knudsen (see below)

July. Assassination attempt by German officers fails to kill Adolf Hitler

April 12. Roosevelt dies suddenly of cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia

Congress approves $5.3 billion funding of the Marshall Plan n Europe

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Treaty (NATO) signed

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

Sixteen million men register for the draft in U.S.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower named as Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe

Major Jimmy Doolittle bombs Tokyo

May 7. Victory in Europe as Germany surrenders

Thirteen Nazis convicted at Nuremberg Tribunal

Bell Laboratories announces the invention of the transistor

Newly formed U.S. Air Force flies airlift into Russian land-locked West Berlin

USSR tests atomic bomb

Seaborg and McMillian discover plutonium

400,000 Allies land in North Africa

Henry Kaiser launches first "Liberty" ships

First jet airplanes become operational

July 16. First atomic device exploded at Alamagordo, New Mexico

Charles Carlson invents Xerography

Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier

John Huston releases film *Treasure of Sierra Madre* starring Bogart and Huston's father, Walter

George Orwell writes *1984*

Electron microscope first demonstrated in New Jersey

The Jewish Holocaust begins in the gas chambers of Europe

Werner Von Braun designs V-2 rockets

Frank Capra releases his film *It's a Wonderful Life*

In August, following atomic bomb drops on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrenders

Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers becomes first African-American in major league baseball

William L. Shirer writes *Berlin Diary*

ARTS/CULTURE

Hemingway writes *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

In U.S., Fermi splits the atom as the secret "Manhattan Project" begins

Tennessee Williams writes play *The Glass Menagerie*

Benjamin Spock writes his famous *Baby and Child Care*

WHIO-TV and WLW-D begin TV broadcasting in Dayton, Ohio

Orson Wells releases film *Citizen Kane*

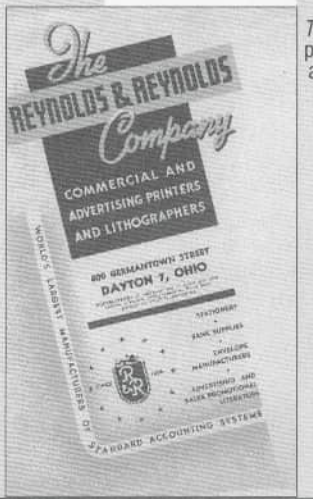
Movie *Casablanca* is released

George Orwell writes *Animal Farm*

June 20. *The Ed Sullivan Show* premieres on CBS-TV as *Toast of the Town*

Charlie Chaplin releases his spoof *The Great Dictator*

Film *Mrs. Miniver* released



GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

1941. Edwin Stanton Reynolds, Jr. passes away.

1942. Grant family buys remaining Reynolds interest in R&R (p. 16)

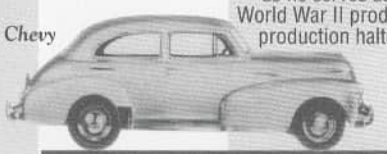
June 6, 1944. D-Day invasion of Normandy in Europe. Grant's GM liaison function ends (p. 36)

1941. Richard H. Grant, Jr., becomes President and General Manager of Reynolds & Reynolds (p. 17)

1942. R.H. Grant, Sr., and Laura temporarily move to Washington D.C. as he serves as GM's liaison for World War II production. Civilian auto production halted through war. (p. 19)

1944. R.H. Grant, Sr., at age 65, retires as GM officer but remains on the GM Board of Directors (p. 20). Also continues as Chairman of the Board for Reynolds & Reynolds

1942 Chevy



Knudsen

GM Pres. Charles E. Wilson, 01/06/41-01/26/53

GM COB Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., cont'd., 05/03/37-04/02/56

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949

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1950s

PRESIDENT



Dwight D. Eisenhower

Korean War, 1950-1953

POLITICS

Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy begins his anticommunist accusations

U.S. Presidency restricted to two consecutive terms

Queen Elizabeth II becomes queen of England

Khrushchev and Malenkov succeed Stalin as leaders of U.S.S.R.

Laos and Cambodia gain independence from France

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations merge to become AFL-CIO

Common Market begins after Treaty of Rome

Congress creates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in response to space race

Alaska becomes 49th state and Hawaii becomes 50th state

Eisenhower increases U.S. involvement in French war in Indochina

Army-McCarthy hearings end Joseph McCarthy's reign of anticommunist hunting

Krushchev denounces Stalin as Russians suppress revolution in Hungary

June 25. Korea invades South Korea beginning the Korean War

President Truman recalls General MacArthur from Korea

Martin Luther King leads Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott following Rosa Parks incident

McClellan Committee begins investigating racketeering within the Teamsters

Charles VanDoren testifies about TV Game Show fixing before Congress

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

China and USSR sign their 30-year pact

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are sentenced to death for giving atomic secrets to Soviets

U.S. has first hydrogen bomb tests at Eniwetok in South Pacific

U.S.S.R. tests hydrogen bomb

Nuclear powered *Nautilus* submarine launched

Cuban revolution under Fidel Castro begins

Nuclear submarine *U.S.S. Nautilus* makes crossing under the North Pole

Einstein issues his *General Field Theory*

Construction begins on first atomic submarine, *U.S.S. Nautilus*

Watson and Crick discover the structure of DNA

Dr. Jonas Salk perfects his polio vaccine

U.S.S.R. launches first earth satellite *Sputnik*

Jack Kerouac writes *On the Road* coining term "Beat" for a new generation

Frank Lloyd Wright builds Guggenheim Art Museum in New York City

CBS broadcasts first color television from New York City

Prehistoric cave paintings are discovered in France

First transatlantic telephone cable becomes operational

On the Waterfront and *Hitchcock's Rear Window* premiere

Margaret Mead writes *Social Anthropology*

First contraceptive pill produced

The Robe is first CinemaScope motion picture

Salvador Dali paints *The Last Supper*

Musical *West Side Story* by Sondheim and Bernstein premieres

John K. Galbraith writes *The Affluent Society*

ARTS/CULTURE

Films *Sunset Boulevard* and *Harvey* premiere

Herman Wouk writes *The Caine Mutiny*

Tennessee Williams writes *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Films *Twelve Angry Men* and *The Bridge on the River Kwai* premiere

Films *Ben Hur* and *Some Like It Hot* premiere

Hemingway writes *The Old Man and the Sea*

Vladimir Nabokov writes *Lolita*

Jack Paar replaces Steve Allen as the host of *The Tonight Show*

The Twilight Zone and *Bonanza* premiere on TV

"Cinerama" film technique is invented

Summer 1953. R.H. Grant, Sr., retires from GM Board of Directors at 74, but remains R&R Chairman of the Board (p. 20)

The Tonight Show with Steve Allen premieres on NBC

Gunsmoke and *the Honeymooners* premiere on CBS

Michael Todd produces film *Around the World in 80 Days*

1957. Upon the death of RHG, R.H. Grant, Jr. becomes Chairman of the Board of R&R (p. 17)

February 25. *Your Show of Shows* with Sid Caesar begins a four year television run on NBC

October 15. *I Love Lucy* premieres on CBS-TV

The Today Show with David Garroway premieres on NBC

1955. Richard H. Grant, Sr. and wife, Laura move out of mansion to 740 Park Avenue, New York, New York (p. 155)

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

August 1950. Richard and Laura Grant return from month-long visit to London and Paris on the Queen Elizabeth their seventh such trip since 1922.

Charles E. Wilson, President of GM, responds to U.S. Senate at Secretary of State nomination hearings to question of possible conflict of interest. He answered, "I cannot conceive of one because for years I thought that what was good for our country was good for General Motors, and vice versa."



1955. Grant family begins to sell off Normandy Farms mansion and estate (p. 21)

1955. Grant family sells Grant mansion to Normandy Evangelical United Brethren for use as church (p. vii, 58)

September 18, 1955. First church service held at Normandy E.U.B. church (p. 58)

Mid-1950s. Township and City of Centerville establish open-space concept which would allow much of Normandy Farms to become park (p. 72)

September 24, 1957. Richard Grant dies in New York City (p. vii, 17, 21)



1959. Centerville-Washington Park District is formed (p. 72)

June 1951. Actor Gordon Jump while residing at Normandy Farms graduates from Centerville High School (p. 163)

GM Pres. Charles E. Wilson, cont'd., 01/06/41-01/26/53

GM Pres. Harlow H. Curtice, 02/02/53-08/31/58

GM COB Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., cont'd., 05/03/37-04/02/56

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959

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1960s

PRESIDENT


John F. Kennedy


Lyndon B. Johnson

POLITICS

U.S. Pilot Francis Gary Powers shot down in U-2 over Soviet Union

Eisenhower warns Americans to beware of the "military-industrial complex"

Cuban Missile Crisis causes blockade and brings U.S.S.R. and U.S. to brink of nuclear war

200,000 "Freedom Marchers" come to Washington where Martin Luther King, Jr., delivers "I have a dream" speech

Brezhnev and Kosygin replace Krushchev as Soviet leaders

March 8. President Johnson sends Marines into South Vietnam

April 12. President Johnson authorizes B-52 bombing raids on North Vietnam

Israel and Arabs fight Six-Day War

North Korea seizes *U.S.S. Pueblo*

Vietnam anti-war demonstrations reach new high

Race riots continue in major U.S. cities as Thurgood Marshall becomes first black Supreme Court Justice

July 20. U.S. astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes first man on moon

Viet Cong launch Tet Offensive as Johnson decides not to seek re-election

Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy assassinated

Nixon and Kennedy meet in first televised presidential debates

Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba fails

U.S. Military Assistance command established in South Vietnam

November 22. President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas

Three civil rights workers killed in Mississippi during "Freedom Summer"

Supreme Court's Miranda Decision forces police to inform suspects of rights

China explodes their first hydrogen bomb

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

President Eisenhower imposes trade embargo with Cuba

President Kennedy establishes the Peace Corp

Quasars discovered by Matthews and Sandage

Malcolm X shot in New York as racial riots and violence increase in ghettos

Nearly 400,00 attend Woodstock Music Fair in upper New York state

First laser device developed by U.S. scientists

John Glenn becomes first American to orbit the earth

August 7. Congress passes Gulf of Tonkin Resolution giving President Johnson power to escalate Vietnam War

South Vietnam government is overthrown by Buddhist coup

U.S. troops increase to 400,000 in Southeast Asia

November 9-10. Northeast blackout leaves over 30 million in the dark

Three U.S. astronauts orbit the moon in Apollo 8

Soviet Yuri Gagarin becomes first human in space

Edward Albee writes *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?*

February 24. Beatlemania sweeps North America as Beatles appear on Ed Sullivan Show

Dr. Christian Barnard performs first heart transplant

Films *Easy Rider, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,* and *Midnight Cowboy* premiere

May 5. Alan Shepard, Jr., becomes first American in space

Ken Kesey writes *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Truman Capote writes *In Cold Blood*

Film *2001: A Space Odyssey* premieres

ARTS/CULTURE

Exodus and Hitchcock's film *Psycho* premiere

The Defenders, Dick Van Dyke and *Rocky and His Friends* (later *Rocky and Bullwinkle)* premiere on TV

Films *The Great Escape* and *Charade* premiere

Film *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* premieres

Films *Cleopatra* and *Lawrence of Arabia* premiere

Films *Dr. Zhivago* and *The Sound of Music* released

National and American Football Leagues agree to meet in "SuperBowl"

September 24. *60 Minutes* premieres on CBS-TV

October 3. *The Andy Griffith Show* premieres on CBS-TV

Johnny Carson replaces Jack Paar as host of *The Tonight Show* on NBC

November 1963. Farm equipment sold off as Normandy Farms operations are shut down (p. 45)

mid-1960s. Grant heirs sell-off estate land that would become Grant Park, Normandy Elementary School, and upscale housing (p. 45)

Films *In the Heat of the Night, The Graduate, Cool Hand Luke,* and *Bonnie and Clyde* released

November 19. *Sesame Street* premieres on PBS-TV

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

May 13, 1962. Ground broken for new sanctuary, later to become Fellowship Hall at Normandy Church (p. 170)

March 14, 1965. Formal dedication of Normandy Elementary School. Completed for a cost of $473,794 (p. 123)

June 2, 1963. New octagonal sanctuary (later Fellowship Hall) dedicated at Normandy Church replacing original sanctuary (former Grant Living Room) (p. 61, 149, 170)

November 5, 1963. Township voters approve $865,000 bond issue which allows for construction of Normandy Elementary School (p. 122)

March 1964. Construction begins on Normandy Elementary School (p. 122)

1964. Superintendent of Centerville Schools, Hadley Watts, creates the Grant Life Science Center (p. 92)

1964. Four sheep and hog barns are moved from the Grant Farm complex to the Grant Life Science Center to serve as classrooms (p. 92, 116)

October 9, 1964. Normandy School opens for its first day (p. 123)

1963. First portion of Grant Park set aside 47 acres to establish a nature walk (p. 74)





1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969

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1970s

PRESIDENT


Richard M. Nixon


Gerald Ford


Jimmy Carter

POLITICS

May 4
Four students killed and nine students wounded at Kent State University during anti-war protest

U.S. and China establish détente as U.S. steps up large-scale bombing of North Vietnam

Vice-President Spiro Agnew resigns to submit his *nolo contendere* plea for tax-evasion

August 8.
President Nixon resigns under threat of impeachment for Watergate cover-up. Pardoned by Ford

United States celebrates its bicentennial

President Carter pardons Vietnam War draft evaders

Sepember 17.
President Carter hosts Camp David Accords between Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin

November 4.
Iranian militants take 66 American hostages as they overrun the U.S. Embassy in Tehran

February 21 & May 22.
Nixon becomes first president to visit China then Russia

SALT-I Treaty provides for limited nuclear war as opposed to nuclear annihilation

April 30.
Last Americans evacuated from Saigon as North Vietnamese overrun South Vietnam

Legionnaire's Disease breaks out at convention in Philadelphia killing 29 victims

June 18.
Carter and Breshnev sign SALT-II nuclear treaty in Vienna

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

January 25.
Charles Manson and followers convicted in Los Angeles

Watergate investigation begins to unravel conspiracy within the White House

Newspaper heiress Patty Hearst abducted by the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA)

The Alaskan oil pipeline begins operation

In Jonestown, Guyana, Africa nearly 1,000 cult followers of Rev. Jim Jones commit mass suicide

December 21
US Supreme Court upholds 18-year-old voting age

New York Times begins publishing *The Pentagon Papers*, top-secret Vietnam history

May 15.
Alabama Gov. George Wallace shot on the Presidential campaign trail

Israel and Arabs fight Yom Kipper War

May 12.
Cambodia seizes *USS Mayaguez* as Marines are sent in to rescue

Patty Hearst convicted for her part in southern California bank robberies with the SLA

Margaret Thatcher becomes first woman Prime Minister of England

Lt. William Calley court-martialed for My Lai massacre

Arab oil embargo in response to U.S. aid to Israel causes gas prices to skyrocket

First space shuttle flight of *Enterprise*

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) doubles oil prices feeding highest U.S. inflation

February 9.
Major southern California earthquake kills 64 and injures over 1,000

June 17.
Five men arrested breaking into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at Watergate

Soviets land Mars probe

U.S. Apollo and Soviet Soyuz spacecraft complete first link-up

Worldwide earthquakes kill in excess of 780,000

Federal loans guarantees bail out New York City from financial crisis

Greenpeace founded in Vancouver, Canada

American Indians take over Wounded Knee

First "test-tube baby" born in England

500,000 killed in East Pakistani flood. 30,000 killed in Peruvian earthquakes

In Kenya, R. Leakey discovers 2.5 million-year-old human skull

Pioneer 10 space mission sends back pictures from Jupiter

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, The Man Who Would Be King and *Jaws* premiere at the movies

Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Star Wars, and *Annie Hall* premiere at the movies

March 28.
Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania releases nuclear cloud

ARTS/CULTURE

US movies go military with *Patton, Catch-22* and *M*A*S*H*

January 12.
All in the Family premieres on CBS-TV

The Godfather and *Deliverance* premiere at the movies

The Godfather, Part II, Chinatown, and *Young Frankenstein* premiere at the movies

All the President's Men, Network, and *Taxi Driver* premiere at the movies

The *Mary Tyler Moore Show* premieres on CBS-TV as *Phil Donahue* becomes syndicated

Clockwork Orange and *French Connection* premiere on the big screen

*M*A*S*H* and *The Bob Newhart Show* premiere on CBS

The Exorcist, Last Tango in Paris, and *The Sting* premiere at the movies

Saturday Night Live premieres, breaking new comedy ground in late night television on NBC-TV

Alex Haley's mini-series *Roots* on ABC draws 130 million viewers

Kramer vs. Kramer, Apocalypse Now, Being There, and *Alien* premiere at the movies

The Deer Hunter premieres at the movies

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

December 23, 1970.
Laura Grant (Mrs. Richard Grant) passes away (p. vii, 21, 59)



1979.
Name of the Grant Life Science Center changed to Grant Nature Center (p. 98)

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979

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1980s

PRESIDENT



Ronald W. Reagan

POLITICS

The FBI's "Abscam" operation implicates over 30 public officials

May 18 Mount St. Helens, Washington erupts killing 26 people and unleashing $2.7 billion of damage

The 52 remaining hostages in Iran are released as President Reagan is inaugurated

Falkland War between Argentina and Britain

Unemployment reaches 10 percent as the federal budget exceeds $100 billion

Reagan announces the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) also known as Star Wars

February 7. President Reagan withdraws the Marines from Lebanon

Muslim terrorists hijack TWA airline and Palestinians hijack Italian liner *Achille Lauro*

November 19-21. Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan hold first summit in Geneva

October 12. The second summit by Reagan and Gorbachev reaches arms impasse at Reykjavik, Iceland

Congress approves sweeping U.S. income tax revisions

Soviet troops which invaded Afganistan in 1977 begin withdrawal

July 3 *USS Vincennes* accidently shoots down Iranian passenger plane killing 290 people

December 8. Third Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington D.C. results in ban on short and medium range nuclear weapons in Europe

In Poland Solidarity gains governmental control; Hungary creates multiparty democracy; and communism in Czechoslovakia falls to the "Velvet Revolution"

March 30. John Hinckley attempts to assassinate President Reagan in Washington D.C.

Lek Walesa is released as Martial Law ends in Poland

The U.S. Embassy in Beirut is bombed by Shiite Moslems

Representative Geraldine Ferraro (D.-N.Y.) becomes first female vice-presidential candidate

October 25. US. invades Grenada to depose Cuban-backed regime

Britain and Ireland sign the Anglo-Irish Agreement

Reagan sends retaliatory air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi, Libya after bombing of Berlin disco

Gorbachev begins his "perestroika" and "glasnost" campaigns

December 21. 747 Pan Am Flight 103 is bombed in Lockerbie, Scotland killing 259 passengers

U.S. troops invade Panama to stabilize their government

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

Gulf War begins as Iraq invades Iran

After striking, U.S. air traffic controllers are dismissed by Reagan.

Solidarity union formed in the shipyards of Gdansk, Poland

Equal Rights Amendment fails by falling three states short of ratification

Sally Ride becomes first American woman astronaut on space shuttle *Challenger*

Indira Gandhi is assassinated by Sikh bodyguards

January 28. Space shuttle Challenger explodes during booster fire-up killing seven

Congressional hearings regarding the Iran-Contra affair bring Lt. Col. Oliver North to the forefront

Over 6,000 military computers are temporarily jammed by an internet virus

Thousands of students confront governmental authority in Tienamen Square, Peking, China

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is identified

Apple launches Macintosh computer with a new input device "the mouse"

Earthquake in Mexico City kills 7,000

October 16. All time one day record drop of 508 points in Dow sparks world market loss

Transatlantic optical fiber cable begins telephone service

March 24. Supertanker *Exxon Valdez* spills 11 million gallons of oil onto the Alaskan coast

IBM introduces its personal computer (PC)

TV show *The Day After* shocks nation with effects of nuclear war

Chernobyl reactor leakage causes evacuation of 133,000 Europeans

The World Health Organization announces worldwide eradication of smallpox

British Antarctic Survey discovers hole in the ozone layer

In the U.S. Paul Chu creates the first high temperature ceramic to be used as a superconductor

ARTS/CULTURE

Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back, The Shining and *Raging Bull* premiere at the movies

Raiders of the Lost Ark and *Chariots of Fire* premiere at the movies

Blade Runner, Gandhi, and *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* premiere at the movies

Amadeus, The Terminator, and *The Killing Fields* premiere at the movies

Episode VI: Return of the Jedi and *The Right Stuff* premiere at the movies

Aliens, Platoon and *Stand by Me* premiere at the movies

Die Hard and *Rain Man* open in theaters as Salman Rushdie publishes *Satanic Verses*

October 17. 62 die and $6 billion in damage occur in San Francisco's second largest earthquake

The Princess Bride and *The Untouchables* premiere at the movies

Driving Miss Daisy, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, and *Crimes and Misdemeanors* premiere at the movies

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

1984. Normandy Farms, including mansion, accepted into National Register of Historic Places (p. 64, 151)

1986. Completed I-675 opened through the Normandy area. (p. 124)

1987. Thirza Grant passes away in Santa Barbara, California (p. vii)

1989. Prairie planted at Grant Park meadows (p. 81)

1989. As Grant Nature Center celebrates 25th anniversary, former farm buildings are upgraded with new natural wood, vertical siding (p. 103)

July 1981. New sturdy bridge constructed over Holes Creek in Grant Park (p. 82, 116, 126)







1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989

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1990s

PRESIDENT



George H. Bush



William J. Clinton

POLITICS

Helmut Kohl is installed as Chancellor of newly reunited Germany

Four white police officers are indicted after the revelation of a video tape of Rodney King's beating

February 26. Huge car bomb rocks World Trade Center parking lot

Former prisoner Nelson Mandela becomes president of South Africa

Leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia sign peace agreement at Dayton, Ohio summit

August 2. After Kuwait is invaded by Iraq, President Bush initiates *Operation Desert Shield*

February 23-27. *Operation Desert Storm* is a success but fails to depose Saddam Hussein

Reforms in South Africa give equal rights to blacks

January 26. The Americans with Disabilities Act assures equal business accessibility to all Americans

Slovakia separates from Czechoslovakia

Major earthquake hits Los Angeles

April 19 Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is destroyed by a massive truck bomb in act of domestic terrorism that kills 168 people

Pakistan is now controlled by the Taliban

Europe's Economic Union (EU) bans the sale of English beef due to Mad Cow disease

Convictions are returned on World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombings

India and Pakistan perform nuclear tests exacerbating tensions

January 26. News breaks as President Clinton declares, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman."

May. Boris Yeltsin, Russian President, survives impeachment hearings and reshuffles his cabinet twice

Yugoslavia's president, Slobodan Milosevic takes hardline to handle Kosovo

April 19. 51 day siege of David Koresh's compound in Waco ends in a firestorm killing all 86 followers

January 24. O. J. Simpson murder trial opens in California

April 3. FBI arrest Unibomber after his manifesto is released

June 30. Hong Kong returns to Chinese rule

Email begins incredible growth as internet usage increases

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY DISCOVERIES/INVENTIONS

Nelson Mandela is freed as the A.N.C. receives amnesty in South Africa

Retreating Iraqi soldiers set 1,000 oil wells afire in Kuwait

U.N. troops sent in to protect food supplies in Somalia

September U.S. Troops seize Haiti to restore Aristide

Disability Discrimination Act of 1995 assures equal hiring practices for all Americans

Nearly 50 percent of all households have PC's. Almost a fifth of those are on the Internet

Massive "fountain of antimatter' is found at core of the Milky Way

First around-the-world balloon flight

March 27. The FDA approves the male impotence drug Viagra

Internet usage in United States breaks 50 percent

Hubble Space Telescope put in orbit, but optical defect discovered

October 6. Anita Hill testifies before congress charging Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas with sexual harassment

Ross Perot enters the Presidential campaign race

November 17. Congress approves NAFTA ending trade tariffs in North America

October 3. O.J. Simpson found not guilty

Pathfinder vehicle studies and photographs Mars

October 29. The first American to orbit the earth, Col. John Glenn returns to orbit in the space shuttle *Discovery* as former Senator

Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to Michael Gorbachev

August 24-26. Hurricane Andrew becomes the most expensive storm ever as it rips a path from Florida through Louisiana

Problems with the Hubble space telescope are repaired by the shuttle crew of the *Endeavor*

Major league baseball strikes causing the first cancellation of the World Series

November 4. Israeli Prime Minister Isaak Rabin is assassinated in Jerusalem

Fargo, Jerry Maquire and *Slingblade* premiere at the movies

Scientists in Scotland clone first mammal, "Dolly" a sheep

ARTS/CULTURE

Goodfellas and *Dances with Wolves* premiere at the movies

Mummified human body discovered in Austrian Alps after 5,000 years

Steven Spielberg releases film *Schindlers List*

Forrest Gump, Pulp Fiction and *Shawshank Redemption* premiere at the movies

Good Will Hunting and *L.A. Confidential* premiere at the movies as *Titanic* is completed at approximately $260 million dollars. In the next year it will make $800 million domestically

Shakespeare in Love captures Oscar as *The Blair Witch Project*, cult classic, proves most profitable film of all time: gross $125 million; cost $30,000

PBS airs Ken Burns' *Civil War*

Silence of the Lambs and *JFK* premiere at the movies

After 30 years Johnny Carson hands over the reigns of the *Tonight Show* to Jay Leno

In film *Usual Suspects, Braveheart,* and *Se7en* premiere. *Toy Story,* the first fully computerized feature length cartoon, is released

March 9. George Burns dies at 99, unable to complete his desire to appear in Las Vegas at 100

The Truman Show, The Big Lebowski and *Saving Private Ryan* premiere at the movies

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum designed by I.M. Pei opens in Cleveland. Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead dies

GRANT/NORMANDY CONNECTIONS

January 12, 1997. New, third sanctuary consecrated and dedicated at Normandy United Methodist Church (p. 66, 111, 171-172)

March 24, 1996. Groundbreaking for new (third) sanctuary at Normandy United Methodist Church (p. 66, 111, 171-172)

1993. Normandy Elementary School cited as a Blue Ribbon School: A National School of Excellence (p. 127)





2000. Wetlands created in Grant Park to increase species diversity. (p. 82)

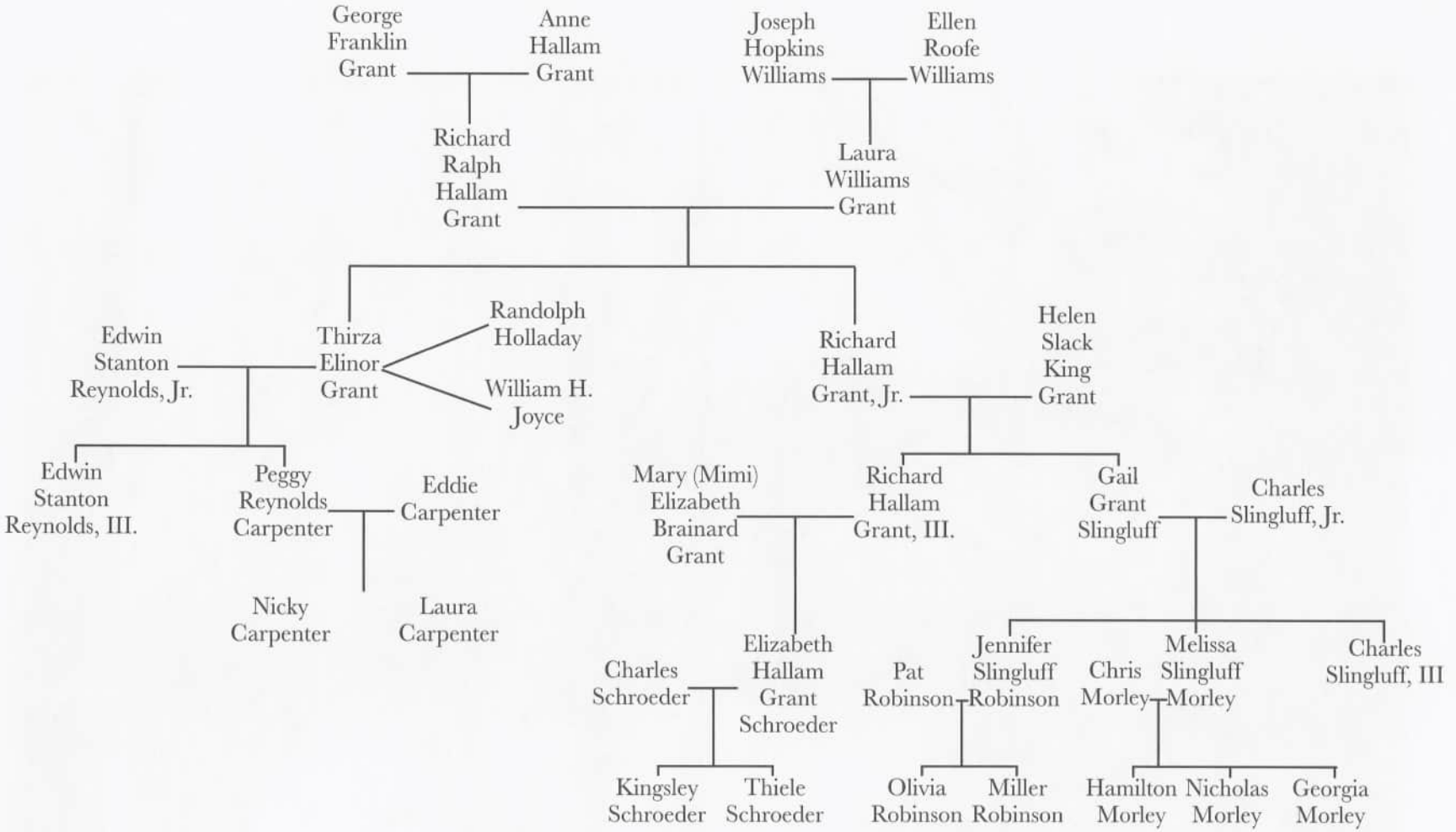
2000. Bridge over Holes Creek in Grant Park is upgraded to provide handicapped accessibility (p. 82)

June 5, 2001. Richard Grant, Jr., passes away (p. vii, 17)

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999

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Grant Family Tree



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Appendix B

The King Family

Robert Snyder King and Helen Slack King were the parents of Helen King Grant. Their residence at 414 Oakwood Avenue was a familiar landmark along Route 48 leading into Dayton. It still stands on the eastern hillside above the intersection of Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood Avenue and Rubicon Avenue.

Mr. King graduated with honors in 1909 from Sheffield Scientific School at Yale University. He succeeded in the field of oil distribution and oil well development just as the internal combustion engine was becoming the most popular engine in the burgeoning automotive field.



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Helen Slack King Grant's Pedigree Chart from: King, Robert Snyder (1969). **The King Family of Suffield, Connecticut; Dayton, Ohio Branch.**

Date _____
Name of Compiler _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. _____ on chart No. _____

b. Date of Birth
p.b. Place of Birth
m. Date of Marriage
d. Date of Death
p.d. Place of Death

Pedigree Chart No.....

1 HELEN SLACK KING 10
b. 12 September 1916
p.b. Dayton, Ohio
m. 5 January 1935
d.
p.d.

2 Robert Snyder King 9
(Father of No. 1)
b. 21 July 1888
p.b. Dayton, Ohio
m. 5 October 1910
d.
p.d.

3 Helen Keeler Slack
(Mother of No. 1)
b. 27 March 1891
p.b. Chicago, Illinois
d.
p.d.

Richard Hallam Grant, Jr
(Husband or Wife of No. 1)
b. 18 January 1913
p.b. Dayton, Ohio
d.
p.d.

4 Robert Newton King 8
(Father of No. 2)
b. 6 May 1845
p.b. New Brunswick, N.J.
m. 13 May 1879
d. 29 January 1942
p.d. Dayton, Ohio

5 Harriet A. Snyder
(Mother of No. 2)
b. 30 November 1852
p.b. Rochester, N. Y.
d. 29 June 1925
p.d. Dayton, Ohio

6 Louis Moore Slack
(Father of No. 3)
b. 11 May 1861
p.b. Pittsburgh, Pa.
m. 1890
d. 28 April 1920
p.d. Saginaw, Michigan

7 Harriet Edith Keeler
(Mother of No. 3)
b. 1 January 1861
p.b. Saginaw, Michigan
d. 8 November 1953
p.d. Dayton, Ohio

8 Lyman King 7
(Father of No. 4)
b. 30 May 1812
p.b. Suffield, Conn.
m. 27 March 1839
d. 5 October 1886
p.d. Springfield, Mass.

9 Maria Persis King
(Mother of No. 4)
b. 13 October 1816
p.b. Suffield, Conn.
d. 20 March 1901
p.d. Dayton, Ohio

10 Rev. Frederick Snyder
(Father of No. 5)
b. 7 January 1818
p.b. Dayton, Ohio
m.
d. 2 July 1853
p.d.

11 Martha Wilson Henderson
(Mother of No. 5)
b. 15 April 1823
p.b. Terre Haute, Indiana
d. 25 January 1884
p.d.

12 William Hunt Slack
(Father of No. 6)
b. About 1836
p.b.
m. 2 January 1855
d. 21 December 1900
p.d. Pittsburgh, Pa.

13 Caroline Moore
(Mother of No. 6)
b. 1831
p.b.
d. 22 February 1906
p.d. Pittsburgh, Pa.

14 Sanford Keeler
(Father of No. 7)
b. About 1835
p.b.
m.
d. About 1924
p.d. Saginaw, Michigan

15 Lucy Nelson
(Mother of No. 7)
b.
p.b.
d. About 1918
p.d. Saginaw, Mich.

16 Samuel King 6
(Father of No. 8)
Continued on chart ____

17 Olive Kendall
(Mother of No. 8)
Continued on chart ____

18 John Bowker King
(Father of No. 9)
Continued on chart ____

19 Hannah Newton
(Mother of No. 9)
Continued on chart ____

20 George Schneider
(Father of No. 10)
Continued on chart ____

21 Anna Becker
(Mother of No. 10)
Continued on chart ____

22 (Father of No. 11)
Continued on chart ____

23 (Mother of No. 11)
Continued on chart ____

24 (Father of No. 12)
Continued on chart ____

25 (Mother of No. 12)
Continued on chart ____

26 (Father of No. 13)
Continued on chart ____

27 (Mother of No. 13)
Continued on chart ____

28 (Father of No. 14)
Continued on chart ____

29 (Mother of No. 14)
Continued on chart ____

30 (Father of No. 15)
Continued on chart ____

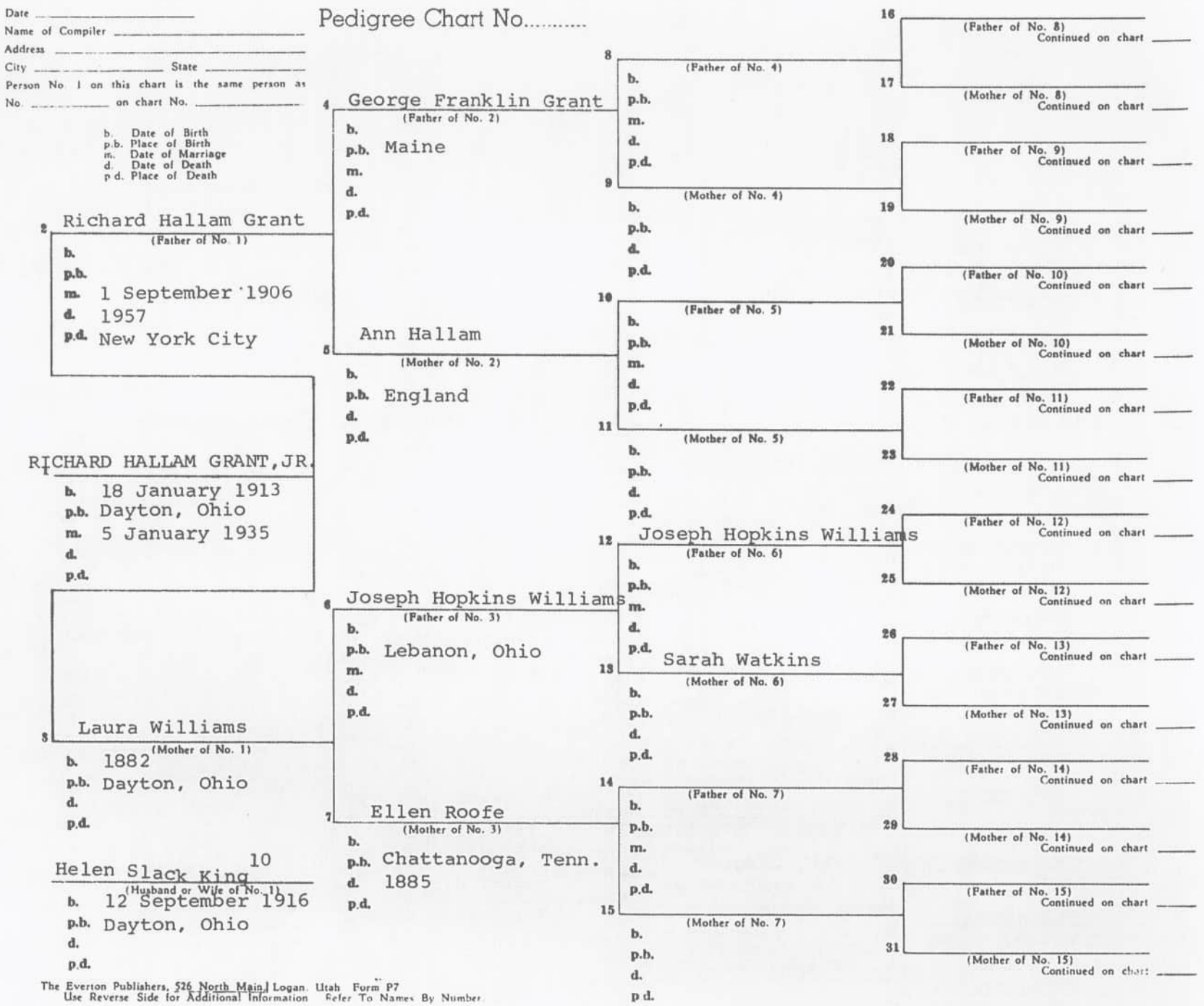
31 (Mother of No. 15)
Continued on chart ____

The Everton Publishers, 526 North Main, Logan, Utah Form P7
Use Reverse Side for Additional Information. Refer To Names By Number.

122

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Helen Slack King Grant's Pedigree Chart from: King, Robert Snyder (1969). **The King Family of Suffield, Connecticut; Dayton, Ohio Branch.**



123

From this chart we can deduce that Laura's mother passed away when Laura was only three years old.

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L A N D

Richard Grant's journal documenting his acquisition of land for his Washington Township estate.

1926				1926			
7/24	- James & Coolidge (Whitmore) 7697	-	$ 1,000.00	12/31	- Balance	-	$ 28,800.00
24	- J. P. Whittmore	-	7,800.00				
7/16	- J. P. Whitmore	-	20,000.00				
			$ 28,800.00				$ 28,800.00
1927				1927			
1/2	- Balance	-	$ 28,800.00	6/3	- James & Coolidge (Lefevre)	-	$ 317.65
5/25	- James & Coolidge (Lefevre) 6883	-	6,500.00				
6/11	- W. A. Brown 7770	-	100.00				
17	- " " "	-	36,200.00				
8/9	- E. L. Lefevre 11024	-	100.00				
20	- " " "	-	7,655.00				
10/29	- T. J. Davis 13839	-	17,865.00	12/31	- Balance	-	96,902.35
			$ 97,220.00				$ 97,220.00
1928				1928			
1/2	- Balance	-	$ 96,902.35	2/1	- Dixon (Weller)	-	$ 78.75
1/	- E.A. Dixon (Weller) 1107	-	2,000.00				
1/24	- McMahan, Corwin (Weller)	-	32,014.75				
10/12	- James & Coolidge (Mrs. Durban) 11557		3,600.00	12/31	- Balance	-	134,438.35
			$ 134,517.10				$ 134,517.10
1929				1929			
1/2	- Balance	-	$ 134,438.35	12/31	- Balance	-	$ 134,438.35
			$ 134,438.35				$ 134,438.35
1930				1930			
1/2	- Balance	-	$ 134,438.35	12/31	- Balance	-	$ 141,803.35
5/15	- E. L. Lefevre 3356	-	7,365.00				
			$ 141,803.35				$ 141,803.35
1931				1931			
1/2	- Balance	-	$ 141,803.35	5/6	- 11.19 acres to King	-	$ 6,714.00
				12/31	- Balance	-	135,089.35
			$ 141,803.35				$ 141,803.35
1932				1932			
1/2	- Balance	-	$ 135,089.35				

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LABOR - CLEARING GROUNDS

A sample of Richard Grant's detailed journal documenting the clearing of land for his Washington Township estate.

1926			1926
11/30	- Mrs. Reynolds	- $	18.90
"	- " "	-	29.90
12/9	- " "	-	41.30
1927			
1/6	- Forest Hills Farms	-	43.40
1/24	- Jean Clark	-	58.70
"	- Mrs. Reynolds	-	15.75
"	- Jean Clark	-	11.20
2/23	- " "	-	260.80
"	- Mrs. Reynolds	-	130.85
3/14	- " "	-	256.55
"	- " "	-	200.00
3/15	- " "	-	78.50
6/8	- Mr. McQueen	-	114.15
6/11	- " "	-	114.00
"	- " "	-	45.00
11/25	- Cromer 10/29	-	359.75
11/26	- " 11/19	-	570.10
1928			
2/20	- Cromer 12/28	-	371.40
3/19	- Clunet 3/4	-	266.92
5/18	- " 4/4	-	739.10
5/21	- " 5/3	-	516.05
6/30	- " 6/3	-	1,007.00
8/4	- " 7/5	-	425.00
1929			
7/8	- Clunet 7/5	-	223.00
8/8	- " 8/8	-	580.85
9/10	- " 9/5	-	175.00
10/10	- " 10/2	-	322.55
11/30	- " 11/5	-	54.00
12/18	- " 12/4	-	146.00

7183.72

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FARM BUILDINGS

A sample of Richard Grant's detailed journal documenting the costs of the farm complex for his Washington Township estate.

1927

11/1	- Harbaugh	- $	1,750.00
"	- Herschner (plumbing)	-	554.26
"	- Smith (brickwork)	-	325.00
"	- Eby (wiring)	-	75.00
"	- Newcomer (plasterer)	-	650.00
11/7	- Simpson (architect)	-	836.14
"	- Merrick	-	10.37
"	- Clunet (Builder)	-	6,771.44
11/25	- Cromer "	-	1,505.70
"	- Smith (brickwork)	-	125.00
"	- Pope (excavating)	-	178.55
11/26	- Cromer	-	1,292.30
"	- Newcomer	-	138.24
"	- Irvine Jewell (paint)	-	171.93
"	- Dayton Builders	-	121.84
12/29	- Federal Flooring	-	55.00
"	- Delscamp Paint	-	162.76
12/8	- Simpson	-	545.21
12/7	- Clunet	-	5,950.82
12/8	- Ferro Bronze	-	217.28
"	- Kelso (lighting)	-	1,407.00
12/13	- Simpson	-	1,000.00
12/19	- "	-	505.33
12/31	- Mcqueen (freight)	-	12.29
"	- Requarth (lumber)	-	8.96
"	- Foundation for corn cribs	-	525.41
"	- Schoedinger (" ")	-	434.11
"	- Martin Steel Prod. (Chicken house)	-	973.75
"	- Schoedinger (corn cribs)	-	171.57

1928

1/20	- Installing Frigidaire	-	17.45
"	- Frigidaire (farmer's house)	-	243.00
"	- Simpson	-	1,611.80
2/4	- Tischer Hdwe	-	19.65
"	- Baldwin Tarvin (flooring)	-	985.20
"	- Requarth (lumber)	-	5,052.77
"	- James Mfg. (barn equip.)	-	2,324.15
"	- Tischer Hdwe.	-	3.10
"	- Flask Equipment	-	2.65
"	- Baker Hdwe.	-	44.83
"	- Poole (steel)	-	438.12
"	- Patterson Tool	-	25.80
"	- Plocker Sons	-	42.19
"	- Wuicket	-	39.75
"	- Hadeler Hdwe.	-	63.75
"	- Dayton Builders	-	1,068.06
"	- Lesher Electric	-	1,200.00
"	- Plocker	-	16.20
"	- Centerville Limestone	-	5.89
"	- Tischer Hdwe.	-	3.00
2/4	- Clunet (labor)	-	7,756.87
"	- " (miscellaneous)	-	316.75
"	- "	-	1,923.41
2/14	- Clunet (labor)	-	3,827.03
"	- Goldschodt (painter)	-	545.00
"	- Baldwin Tarvin	-	852.50
"	- Schultz (plumber)	-	784.87
"	- Lescher Electric	-	500.00
"	- Material	-	775.43
"	- Clunet	-	1,428.16
2/20	- Cromer 12/28/27 (Labor)	-	1,490.17
"	- " (wiring)	-	77.50
"	- " (plumbing)	-	454.96
"	- " (hardware)	-	195.23
"	- " (shades)	-	43.05
"	- " (paint)	-	68.15
"	- " (rails)	-	125.25
"	- " (weatherstrip)	-	15.00
"	- " (cement)	-	58.64
"	- " (teams)	-	19.00
2/20	- Cromer 2/8/28 (labor)	-	36.90
"	- " (lumber)	-	1,183.25
"	- " (furnace)	-	421.55
"	- " (material)	-	1,100.00
2/28	- Simpson	-	1,557.18
3/7	- Cromer	-	132.40
4/4	- Simpson	-	1,332.12
4/5	- Schoedinger (brooder house)	-	191.50
4/17	- Simpson	-	1,848.69
3/4	- Clunet (labor)	-	3,335.75
"	- " (painter)	-	850.00
"	- " (Musselmann)	-	5,589.26
"	- " (Baldwin-Tarvin)	-	187.50
"	- " (material)	-	2,870.11
"	- "	-	1,559.16
"	- " (Lesher Electric)		480.70
8/18	- Dayton Builders	-	1,437.50
4/4	- Clunet (buildings)	-	19,729.04
"	- "	-	2,625.65
5/16	- Simpson	-	1,319.97
5/21	- Clunet 5/3 (gardener's house)		1,746.25
"	- " (moving & wrecking)		720.00
"	- "	-	10,754.11
"	- "	-	2,736.69
6/29	- Higgins (screens)	-	269.66
6/30	- Simpson	-	384.00
"	- Clunet	-	4,800.00
"	- " (gardener's house)	-	1,900.00
8/4	- Clunet 7/4 " "	-	906.00
"	- " (buildings & manure pit)		1,625.00
9/6	- Clunet (gardener's house)	-	482.00
"	- " (painting, electrical)	-	1,198.00
"	- " (creamery gas line)	-	350.00
9/31	- " (gardener's house)	-	306.00
10/1	- Grover Webber (lumber)	-	255.50
10/8	- " " "	-	135.38
10/16	- Clunet	-	84.84
10/6	- Ornamental Iron Co.	-	85.80
11/1	- Schoedinger (corn cribs)	-	343.26
11/8	- Clunet (new barn)	-	8,190.00
"	- "	-	79.00
11/12	- Simpson	-	491.40

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A sample of Richard Grant's detailed journal documenting the costs of the farm complex for his Washington Township estate.

FARM BUILDINGS (2)

1928			
12/26	- Simpson	-	$ 372.00
12/13	- Clunet (barn)	-	6,200.00
12/31	- " (painting)	-	290.00
"	- " (gardener's house)	-	143.00
1929			
1/17	- Clunet (new barn)	-	977.00
"	- Gardener's house	-	39.00
"	- Clunet (blacksmith shop)	-	348.00
1/18	- Simpson	-	59.62
2/15	- Clunet (farm buildings)	-	508.00
"	- " (gardener's house)	-	740.00
3/12	- " (building)	-	176.00
4/26	- " "	-	662.00
5/11	- James Mfg. Co.	-	25.56
5/11	- Clunet	-	5,922.00
6/27	- Chevrolet (paint)	-	23.35
6/20	- " (paint & labor)	-	542.70
6/30	- Clunet (building)	-	3,529.00
"	- " (silo)	-	356.38
9/9	- Simpson	-	79.48
9/12	- McCray (paint)	-	175.25
9/10	- Clunet	-	900.00
"	- " (sheds)	-	1,987.00
10/10	- Clunet (farm buildings)	-	705.00
11/30	- " (Horse barn)	-	490.00
1930			
~~1/9xx~~	- ~~Kalsomxpaintxglass~~		
2/14	- Clunet (repairs)	-	184.00
3/31	- " "	-	240.00
4/14	- " "	-	309.00
5/6	- Lackey (painting)	-	114.75
7/28	- Clunet (shed)	-	1,200.00
"	- " (horse barn)	-	2,750.00
9/9	- " (porch)	-	137.00
"	- " (dairy)	-	597.00
"	- " (farmer's house)	-	22.00
9/22	- Clunet (horse barn)	-	1,203.00
"	- " (buildings)	-	959.00
1931			
6/6	- Clunet	-	160.00
"	- " (dairy)	-	200.00
9/17	- Clunet (cow barn)	-	48.00
"	- "	-	296.00
11/5	- "	-	32.00
			$ 178,996.14

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THE WEATHER:
Fair and colder Tuesday night, Wednesday fair and cold. Lowest Tuesday night, 24 degrees.

THE DAYTON HERALD

"Today's Paper For Today's People"

FINAL EDITION
FINANCIAL, SPORTS

Vol. LIX No. 275 — DAYTON, OHIO, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1938 — THREE CENTS

GRANT BUYS PRINTING FIRM

Reynolds & Reynolds Expansion To Follow

City's Operating Expenses Will Be Cut By $250,000

By JOSEPH MYERS

The 1939 operating budget of the Dayton city government, submitted last week to the county budget commission for approval as the basis of determining the city tax rate, has been cut approximately $250,000 as compared with the expenses of the current fiscal year.

The proposed budget, prepared by City Finance Director Karl E. Hagerman and explained to the city commission at an informal conference early last week, will come before the regular meeting of commissioners Wednesday for formal approval in a budget ordinance.

No Relief Included.

It does not include the city's obligations for poor relief in the coming year, which will cost about $1,300,000 in 1938. Financing of direct relief cases, now including about 15,000 individuals is handled in a separate operating account.

The city's poor relief financing after January 1, is dependent on action of the regular session of a new legislature in Columbus.

Reduction of a quarter of a million dollars in the regular operating expenses of the city in 1939 was forced upon city officials, according to Hagerman's records, by a combination of several losses in anticipated revenue from local property taxes and state-collected taxes.

General Fund Off.

One of the principal losses will be in the general fund balance to be carried over from 1938 into 1939, which is now estimated to be about $148,000 less at the end of this year than it was at the end of 1937.

The 1937 balance carried into 1938 amounted to $177,000. But the 1938 balance carried into 1939 is now estimated at $29,000. This will be made possible by using enabling state legislation to borrow against future payments of delinquent taxes to meet an estimated deficit of $400,000 in the poor relief account.

Operating income from local real estate and tangible property tax collections in 1939 is estimated to be approximately $45,000 less than in 1938.

Other Reductions.

Other 1938 income sources which will be reduced in 1939, with the losses indicated, are: Intangible property tax, $10,000; liquor license revenue, $30,000; payment of Montgomery and other counties for the boarding of prisoners at the city workhouse, $3,000; city market rentals, $5,000, and saving in interest on bonds as the public in 1938 by the payment of Hyre art bonds for 5 years in advance of maturity, $11,000.

The total loss in 1939 from all these sources amounts to $79,000.

Contrasting with the income losses, Hagerman's analysis of the 1939 budget for the commissioners disclosed that the city must increase certain expenses in the coming year.

Costs Increased.

The larger items of increased expenditure which city officials declare cannot be avoided, are: $16,000 for extension of the fire and police signal system, for which funds were authorized by the three-fifths of a mill tax levy at the August primary election; $15,-000 for salaries of new firemen and other costs to maintain three new residential fire stations, the operating costs not being provided by the tax levy; a total of $29,000.

Concluded on Next Page, Column 4.

Pitt's Athletic Affairs Bungled, Lettermen Say

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 22.—(UP)—Recruitment of some groups to the University of Pittsburgh's new athletic policy in "de-emphasizing football" broke into the open today as the Pitt Varsity Letter club, composed of former Pitt athletes, charged the school's athletic affairs have been "badly bungled."

A committee of the Varsity Letter club, after claiming the "bungling" had resulted in publicity that "has been so vicious that the University of Pittsburgh has become the most shamefully maligned institution in the country" made this demand on Chancellor John Bowman of Pitt:

"The situation is so acute that this committee recommends that you approve a competent, impartial and representative committee to make a thorough investigation of the whole problem."

It was revealed that Chancellor Bowman had denied the club's request for an investigation of the athletic setup, including the latest episode in which freshmen athletes protested at being billed $150 for this semester's tuition after they said they had "understood" duties they signed to pay for the tuition would be "taken care of."

The latest incident involving the freshmen is particularly bad because suspicion has been cast on the integrity of the university," a letter the club sent to Chancellor Bowman said. "We have made sufficient investigation of the facts to convince us that the freshmen athletes were brought here on certain promises of university officials, and these promises have not been fulfilled. There is evidence that university officials have broken faith."

The club's attack came as Chancellor Bowman appeared before the student body to discuss the university's football policy. As he declared there were no changes contemplated in the athletic department, he branded as "false" rumors that he did not appreciate football or Dr. John B. Sutherland, who, since he came to Pitt as football coach in 1924, has brought winning grid teams to Pitt.

Mercury Due To Reach 24

Repetition of a promise that the thermometer would take a toboggan slide to 24 degrees or above zero Tuesday night and early Wednesday was made by Weatherman L. J. Guthrie Tuesday. The day's maximum of 46 degrees was already set at 10 a. m. and the temperature was expected to slip steadily downward for the season's low before Wednesday sunrise.

Monday's maximum was 60 degrees and the night remained comfortable with a minimum of 43 degrees.

Late News Flashes

Farewell Call

WASHINGTON—German Ambassador Hans Heinrich Dieckhoff, recalled to Berlin by his government, will make a formal farewell call on Secretary of State Hull late today, preliminary to sailing shortly for Germany. The state department revealed that the German embassy requested the appointment.

Named Supervisor

Joseph Armstrong, who has been associated with the state liquor department as clerk, assistant store manager and store manager since May, 1934, Tuesday was made store supervisor of the Dayton district. He succeeds Samuel Poles, who came here from Portsmouth February 1 to be store supervisor and who is now transferred to the same post at Akron. Since March of this year, Armstrong has been manager of the Ludlow street store.

Gets $5,000 Monthly

PONTIAC, Mich.—Mrs. Louise Muehendahl Dodge, who less than a year ago was an $18-a-week telephone operator, was granted a widow's allowance of $1,800 a month today from the estate of her husband, Daniel Dodge, heir to an automobile fortune.

Where To Find It

	Page		Page
Cartes	4	Radio	12
Comics	22-23	Refrige	14
Courts	14	Serial	22
Dr. Kaffee	6	Society	6
Editorials	6	Sports	14-15
Gene	1	Stock Qts	16
Jane Rodh	7	Theaters	10
Mallon	7	Thompson	10
Markets	17	Weather	12
Parsons	16	When-Where	15
Obituaries	2	Winchell	15
Observatory	10	Woman's	8

REYNOLDS & REYNOLDS PLANT CHANGES HANDS



Controlling interest in Reynolds and Reynolds, 931 Washington street, has been purchased by Richard H. Grant, vice president of General Motors corporation, it was announced Tuesday. The Reynolds and Reynolds plant, which employs some 450 persons, is shown above.

Chest Workers In Final Effort To Go Over Top

The 750 workers in the 20th Community Chest campaign were putting in desperate efforts Tuesday to raise the $142,441 needed to end the drive with a "victory dinner" at 6 p. m. in the Biltmore hotel.

With a daily total of $107,263 reported at the campaign's final noon luncheon Monday, the grand total of $419,701 in pledges and contributions to 30 social agencies in the Chest was approximately 75 per cent under the goal of $562,142.

Regardless of the amount obtained by the workers in the last stretch of the solicitation, the campaign will end with the Tuesday night dinner, Chest leaders announced.

Chief hope of victory lay in a plan, by which Dayton telephone subscribers may give part or all of their rate refunds for a seven year period to fill the Chest.

The telephone refund plan arranged by Chest officials in cooperation with the Ohio Bell Telephone company provides that a telephone subscriber during a seven year period starting in 1935 may assign his refund to the Chest.

Average Refund $25.

The average refund of a two-party line subscriber for this period will be about $25, plus $8 to $12 interest.

No cash transactions will be necessary under the plan, as the telephone company and the Chest will take care of the bookkeeping necessary in the transfer.

Industrial firms reaching their quota Monday included the Wellbench Tile and Marble company, Payne and company, Miami Wood Specialties company, Lukaswyn Weaver company, Dayton Forg-

Concluded on Next Page, Column 7.



RICHARD H. GRANT

Girl, Believed Kidnap Victim, Proves Runaway

Police Tuesday detained Mrs. Pauline Rose, 17, of 349 West Monument avenue, and Gladys Scott, 14, of Beni, Ore., who has been residing at the same address, while they awaited further word from a Kansas sheriff who brought the Scott girl to their attention by saying that she might be the victim of a west coast kidnaping.

The girl, however, told Detective Sergeant O. L. Kincaid that she had run away from home and worked for a time in a canning plant in the state of Washington, where she met Mrs. Rose. The two decided to go to Florida, but after reaching Texas changed their minds and came to Dayton.

The younger girl has been using the name, Dorothea Karnes, since leaving her home.

Monday police received from Sheriff Fred A. Volger, of Douglas county, Kansas, a telegram which said: "Please locate Mrs. O. W. Vaughn, Dayton, who mailed postcard to W. A. Scott, Baldwin City, Kan., Nov. 17. Has with them a girl who says her name is Dorthea Karnes and is sick. We have reason to believe this girl is Gladys Scott, who was kidnaped from the court Sept. 1." The W. A. Scott referred to is the younger girl's uncle.

Mrs. Vaughn is Mrs. Rose' mother. After learning that there was no truth in the kidnaping report, police held the two girls until further word was received from Sheriff Vogler.

A STUDENT ABROAD

Robert Lee Wharton, University of Dayton graduate, returned from a year of study in Germany that included visits to France, continues his interesting series of articles on the highlights of his experiences today on page 17.

Race Results

BOWIE

First Race—Six furlongs:

Dutchman	$8.80	$ 7.00	$ 4.60
Housebrille		34.30	14.50
Dod's King			4.00

Second Race—Mile and a sixteenth:

Ben Antico	$12.90	$ 5.30	$4.60
a-Goptay		12.10	6.00
Waterspleash			2.70

a Field.

Double daily double $169.40.

Third Race—Six furlongs:

Thisnine	$6.80	$4.00	$2.90
Black Bion		5.20	3.80
Which Over			7.10

More Race News on Page 18

Dayton Jeweler Reports Robbery

CLEVELAND, Nov. 22.—(UP)—A 10-minute stop at the U. S. postoffice here cost Henry F. Shalow, manufacturing jeweler from Dayton, $1,712, he reported to police today.

Shelow said that was the value of two cases of diamond rings and mountings taken by thieves who broke into his parked car while he was reading a letter.

Shelow's office in the Keith building said Tuesday that no word of the robbery had been received, and that he was out of town.

Italy Ousts Herald Writer Because Of "Unfriendly Tone" In Dispatches

ROME, Nov. 22.—(UP)—Frank Smothers, Rome correspondent of the Chicago Daily News, was ordered today to leave Italy before the end of the month.

Smothers was informed by the ministry of propaganda that he must leave the country because of the "unfriendly tone" of his dispatches, particularly the one of November 18 concerning the ratification of the Anglo-Italian pact.

The American embassy interceded for Smothers with the foreign office. American Charge d'Affaires Raymond Heed was informed that the order was irrevocable.

Smothers came to Rome after service in the Far East. He will leave soon for Paris to await a new assignment.

He will be the 10th foreign correspondent expelled by Italy this year.

The story which prompted his

HERALD WRITER

Frank Smothers, Rome correspondent for The Chicago Daily News, who, Tuesday, was ordered to leave Italy because of the "unfriendly tone" of his dispatches, has been a regular contributor to The Dayton Herald, by way of The Chicago Daily News foreign service, as integral part of The Herald's foreign news coverage.

master from Italy said in part:

"The Italian air force, based on the behavior contained its intervention on six Italian tanks, artillery and other munitions, specialists and troops stationed on the Spanish mainland.

"In other words, the part it implemented [illegible] ended in the face of continued [illegible] mechanistic intervention, which was always the really [illegible] form of Italian intervention. The presence of Italian aviation and artillery [illegible] the withdrawal of some 10,000 tired Black Shirt militiamen from a war involving far more than 1,000,000 Spanish soldiers.

"It is a proud day for Premier Benito Mussolini. His gains include:

"1. The bolstering of his world prestige, which had been affected by the great gains of his ally, Reichsfuehrer Hitler, in the Balkans and eastern Europe.

"2. Mussolini has shown the Italian people, countless of whom have long worried over his foreign adventures, that he has 'got away with it' as far as England is concerned. England has made its obeisance to the man who, Italians are taught, is always right.

"3. British recognition of the conquest of Ethiopia, following closely on that by the French, damagers further the cause of the Ethiopians resisting in Ethiopia, where Italian effective control has yet to be extended into the outlying regions."

Four Die In Crash

BERLIN, Nov. 22.—(UP)—An Italian airplane flying from Munich to Rome crashed at noon near Klagenfurt, killing four of the crew and injuring the fifth severely, the Official News agency reported.

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

Stocks irregular in light trading.

Bonds irregularly lower; U. S. governments lower.

Curb stocks irregular.

Chicago stocks irregular.

Call money 1 per cent.

Foreign exchange weak in relation to the dollar.

Cotton futures steady.

Grains in Chicago: Wheat closed up ½ to ¾ cent and corn closed up ½ to ⅝ cent.

Rubber futures up nearly ½ cent a pound.

Silver unchanged in New York at 42½ cents a fine ounce.

Adjacent Property For Lithographing Company's Building Program Bought

Purchase of controlling interest in the Reynolds and Reynolds company, 931 Washington street, and the Reynolds farm and estate by Richard H. Grant, vice president of General Motors corporation, was announced Tuesday. At the same time, an expansion program including the old power plant of the Peoples Railway company, adjoining the present Reynolds and Reynolds property, was revealed.

Purchase of the interest in the company was made by Grant in behalf of a family trust. Mrs. E. S. Reynolds, widow of the former president of the concern, retains holdings in the company in the form of class A preferred stock.

Grant will be chairman of the board, while L. H. Forster, president and general manager, and John Bell, comptroller, will remain in their present positions.

Employes Hear Announcement

R. H. Grant, Jr., of the Grant-Brownell company, will join the board of directors, while Mrs. E. S. Reynolds and her son, Stoddard Reynolds, also will be directors.

The dual announcement was made Tuesday noon at a meeting of the 452 employes of the 72-year-old lithographing and printing company by Forster.

Purchase of the old Peoples railway power plant already has been completed. The additional property will more than double the company's present space, it is said.

The Reynolds farm and estate, off the Alexandersville road south of the city between Dayton and Lebanon, adjacent to the Grant farm, consists of 250 acres. This, added to Grant's present property, will give him a farm of 600 acres.

Has Fine House

The Reynolds tract has one of the most outstanding country residences in this section. It is expected Grant will expand his activities in the breeding of registered stock, an enterprise he has conducted for several years.

Mrs. Reynolds, it is understood, will purchase a new house in the Oakwood section.

Founded in 1906 by Ira and L. D. Reynolds, the Reynolds & Reynolds company began with a capital of $500. Growth of the business was steady, however, and today the firm is outstanding in the country for its printing and lithography.

First located at the northeast corner of Second and Jefferson street, the company later moved to Fifth street between Jefferson and St. Clair. From there, it moved to the present location on Washington street.

Incorporated 1899

L. D. Reynolds, the first president, was a resident of Bellefontaine, O., and publisher of the Bellefontaine Republican. In 1899 the company was incorporated, with L. D. Reynolds continuing as president. After his death in 1913, E. S. Reynolds succeeded to the office.

Reynolds and Reynolds company was one of the first in the United States to employ the present method of offset lithography, including expert color work for advertising purposes. Recently the company installed one of the largest and finest two-color lithographic presses built.

Upon the death of E. S. Reynolds, Jr., on March 19, 1935, members of the Reynolds family succeeded to executive positions, and Forster was elected to the presidency.

Grant's purchase was made to take effect immediately. Work on the expansion program will be started shortly, it was announced.

30 Factory Girls Hurt In Crash As Bus Strikes Deer

KANE, Pa., Nov. 22.—(UP)—Thirty girls en route to work at a Kane shirt factory were injured, two of them seriously, when a bus carrying them from their homes at Sheffield to Kane struck a deer at Saybrook, 11 miles west of here, and overturned into a shallow ditch.

The bus driver, John Farr, of Sheffield, also was injured. He suffered cuts and bruises.

Most seriously injured were Mrs. Frances Ulyan, 47, and Mary Getz, 19. Mrs. Ulyan suffered a possible skull fracture and head and face lacerations. Miss Getz received a possible skull fracture, head and face lacerations, contusions and shock. Both were admitted to Community hospital here.

All the injured were from Sheffield.

The other girls, all suffering from bruises and lacerations, were treated by a physician at Sheffield and at the Community hospital dispensary here.

All employed at the Kane shirt factory here, the girls were thrown together in a heap when the bus struck the deer and plunged into the ditch at the side of the road.

Farr said he could not avoid the accident. He explained that he was starting up a hill when the deer ran into the path of the bus. The car-ass of the animal became wedged under the wheels and fouled the steering apparatus, causing the driver to lose control of the machine.

Dizzy Dean To Get Same Pay, Wrigley Says

CHICAGO, Nov. 22.—(UP)—Owner Phil K. Wrigley of the Chicago Cubs said today that when player contracts for 1939 are sent out he will offer Pitcher Dizzy Dean "substantially the same salary he received last year —roughly $26,000."

Dean signed for approximately $29,000 last season after he was purchased in April from the St. Louis Cardinals for $185,000 cash and three players.

"I haven't seen Dean since the world series," Wrigley said, "and I won't be talking salary terms with him until his contract is sent out with all the others during the latter part of January or early in February."

The chewing gum magnate said Dean was "very satisfactory during the past season once he was able to get in there and work."

School Is Closed

MANSFIELD, O., Nov. 22.—(UP)—The Plymouth township school at Plymouth, near here, will be closed indefinitely after Wednesday because of lack of operating funds. Reopening was expected after Jan. 1, when new revenues will be available.

Nazis Angered At British, May Call Envoy In



HERBERT VON DIRKSEN

By JOE ALEX MORRIS.
United Features Staff Correspondent.

Europe forgot plans for appeasement today in a new outburst of threats and counter-threats.

Germany, angered by British plans to settle German Jewish refugees in pre-war colonies of the reich now snatched by Great Britain, threatened to recall Herbert Von Dirksen, ambassador to London, although whether such a step would be taken remained highly uncertain.

Italy's press opened a new attack on the United States in line with recent Grandi-Mussolini criticism of President Roosevelt's policies. The Fascist newspapers based their attack on arguments that (1) the world's democratic countries detest Jews as much as the totalitarian states and (2) the United States intends to rule South American spiritually and economically.

The United States today delivered a new note to the German government, asking assurances that recent decrees excluding Jews from businesses in the reich would not be applied to citizens of the United States.

Friendship Wafts.

France, hampered by Italy's coolness toward plans for more friendly relations and by Nazi anti-semitism, laid aside for the time being the already formulated program for friendship accords with Berlin and Rome.

In central Europe, a war of words between Germany and Hungary assumed greater importance in the struggle over Ruthenia, easternmost Czechoslovak province and one of the Nazi interests for eventual domination. Radio and through newspapers, Germany continued stern warnings against any attempt by Hungary to create a protest for armed intervention and occupation of Ruthenia in order to form a common frontier with Poland.

Report Disorders.

Hungarian dispatches have persistently reported serious disorders and fighting in Ruthenia, purportedly due to the agitation of the population with the Vienna decision of Germany and Italy which refused Hungary a foothold in the entire province. Germany has made clear that she does not in-

Concluded on Next Page, Column 3.

Well, I'll Tell You

By BOB BURNS

HOLLYWOOD.—I would get a lot more kick out of the success of a lot of these actors out here if I could forget all the wonderful actors barnstorming all over the country that can't get a break. They have some wonderful actors in those little companies.

I remember one time when my aunt Peachy Romans went to a tent show to see Romeo and Juliet. She tells that played Romeo was very wonderful lover and played the part so well, when he finally committed suicide, my aunt Peachy wore black for two years!

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THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY

JOHN H. PATTERSON, PRESIDENT
EDWARD A. DEEDS, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GEN. MGR.

OFFICE AND FACTORY, DAYTON, OHIO
BRANCH FACTORIES: LONDON, ENGLAND, BERLIN, GERMANY
TORONTO, CANADA

CABLE ADDRESS
"NACARECO-DAYTON"

SALES MANAGER'S OFFICE

DAYTON, OHIO. Nov. 29, 1913.

On November 28, 1913, I resigned my position as Sales Manager and Director of The National Cash Register Company, and I wish to thank you for the assistance and hearty co-operation extended me during the time we have worked together.

The future of the N.C.R. business, as I view it, looks bigger and better today than ever before, and I know that you will continue to work hard and conscientiously in the future, the same as you have in the past, and never allow any change in management to interfere with your part in the N.C.R. work, always remembering that the more you sell the more good you do for yourself, your family and the Company, as well as the merchants, clerks and others.

Mr. R. H. Grant will succeed me in the work here in the Sales Department, and I earnestly request that you give him the same able and loyal support, and co-operation you have given me. We all know he has the ability, knowledge, sense of justice and other qualifications necessary to guarantee every man in the field a square deal, and all the assistance possible towards his success.

As I look back over my 18 years' service with the N.C.R., I have many pleasant recollections of the friendships formed, which will always be dear to me, and I shall take away with me, a deep interest in you and every other man in the selling force, and shall watch the records whenever I have an opportunity in future. I trust the business will show greater increases in the future than it ever has in the past.

I extend my very best wishes to you and yours for health, happiness, and prosperity.

Sincerely yours,

Tho J Watson

Future address
428 West First St.
Dayton, Ohio.

Thomas Watson's resignation letter from N.C.R.

THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY

JOHN H. PATTERSON, PRESIDENT
EDWARD A. DEEDS, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GEN. MGR.

OFFICE AND FACTORY, DAYTON, OHIO
BRANCH FACTORIES: LONDON, ENGLAND, BERLIN, GERMANY, TORONTO, CANADA

CABLE ADDRESS
"NACARECO-DAYTON"

DAYTON, OHIO November 29, 1913.

To District Managers and Agents
of the American Selling Force:

Enclosed please find clipping from the Dayton Journal which explains itself. Mr. R. H. Grant has been appointed Sales Manager. Mr. Grant's promotion is well merited: he has been with us ten years, and is well known to all of you. We know that this appointment will meet with your hearty approval, and that you will give Mr. Grant your cordial support.

Yours very truly,

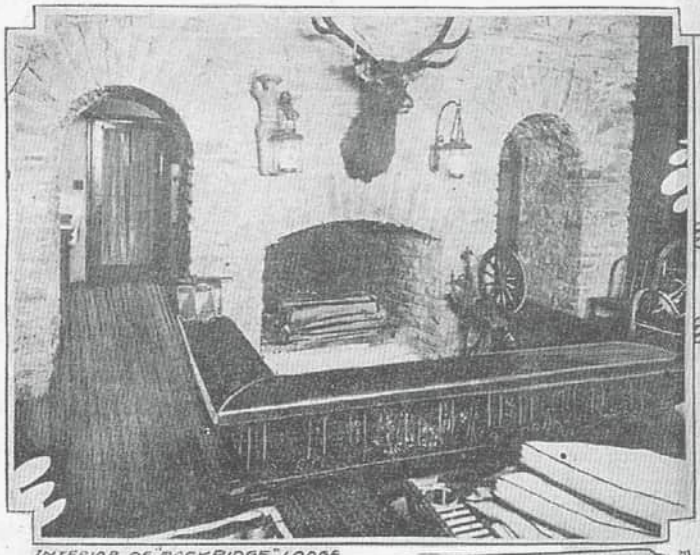
John H Patterson
E A Deeds

John Patterson's and Edward Deeds' letter from N.C.R. confirming Richard Grant's promotion to General Sales Manager.

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SOCIAL AND PERSONAL NEWS | THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS | CLUBS-MUSIC BOOKS AND ART

VOL. L. DAYTON, OHIO, SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1927 No. 358



INTERIOR OF "ROCKRIDGE" LODGE



"ROCKRIDGE" LODGE



DELSCAMP LODGE



INTERIOR OF DELSCAMP LODGE

SUMMER LODGES NOW BEING ENLIVENED BY MANY SOCIAL EVENTS

Quaint and Inviting Huts in Hills Surrounding City Are Scenes of Activity as Heated Season Nears End.

BY ELIZABETH LEMAS

HIDDEN in the woodlands surrounding the city are a number of attractive lodges where society seeks seclusion on hot summer evenings and is entertained at many informal affairs.

At "Rockridge," their 160-acre estate, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grant of Oakwood av. have built an attractive lodge which serves as a delightful spot for picnic suppers and other enjoyable affairs. The debutante set also finds "Rockridge" a desirable woodland retreat, as Mrs. E. S. Reynolds, jr., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grant, has chosen it for many informal parties.

Delscamp lodge lies near Bellbrook, in the heart of a heavily-wooded tract of land. It was recently purchased from Mrs. E. T. Talbott by Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Delscamp, who have been spending the summer months there surrounded by the rare loveliness of forest lands.

Forest Hill lodge is on Forest Hill Farm, the estate of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Reynolds, south of Dayton. Afternoon bridge games, picnic suppers an moonlit summer evenings and steak roasts are popular events at this little cabin in the woods which Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds and their children enjoy throughout the summer.



FORESTHILL LODGE



WOODLAND paradise sometimes, like the blue bird of happiness, can be found at home. One need not journey to a far-away place to find a spot where nature has been inspired to create a little haven of solitude just on the outskirts of civilization. Nature has done this very thing, with all the art she could summon, just out of the city, where a number of Daytonians have taken advantage of the loveliness they found and have built for themselves lodges in the heart of the woodland, so they and their friends may steal away from the strenuous world and be as happy and free as the original American in his native home.

It comes as a longing, when the trees grow green in the springtime and the world awakens to new wonders, to get out in the woods, to breathe the air perfumed with wild flowers, to be able to rest tired eyes in the cool shadows of trees that seem like old firm friends, or to bask in the sunlight on fresh green grasses bathed each morning in the dew that comes to caress the tiny heatol blades under cover of darkness. This longing comes to all of us, and so within recent years there have been hidden away from the eyes of society itself a number of lodges deep in the woods and off the traveled highway.

South of Dayton, off the Alexandersville rd., Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Grant of Oakwood av. have a 160-acre estate and have named it "Rockridge." In the near future they are planning to build a handsome new residence high on the hillside overlooking the deep wooded space below. At present, in the very heart of the estate, is a lodge which hides its attractiveness from all the world except the favored few who have spent many happy hours there surrounded by nature, undisturbed, and experiencing the sweetest loneliness that man may know.

A gateway of rock and brown wood opens into this new world, into which one wanders down a winding roadway that crosses a tiny brooklet, murmuring through meadows and wooded spaces, happy, free, sunkissed and shadow cooled. Across the brooklet suddenly one finds one's self in a clearing, green and perfectly kept, where a lodge nestles at the foot of a high hill densely covered with forest trees and undertrush, with cool aisles inviting a search for hidden wonders in their dense green wanderings that are finally lost in seeming wilderness beyond where only creatures of the forest venture and green things thrive untrampled.

Benches and swings covered with pillows and gay cretonne, beach chairs of red and a large umbrella of red and white stripes show that civilization has touched there. A target for a bit of archery also adds an interesting note and one feels that even Robin Hood and his merry men might not have shot their quivering shafts in any spot more beautiful than this modern Sherwood forest.

A rock oven, where steaks have been broiled, to prod their tempting odor on the clear air, and where potatoes have nestled beneath the ashes, is to the left of the cabin, and also a tent where a night may be spent in gypsy fashion. Directly in front of the lodge the brook has been dredged and dammed, until it offers a tiny swimming hole, somewhat modern with the steps that lead to it and electric lights outlining it at night, but quite clean and lovely nevertheless.

The lodge itself is a long, low, stained building, fronted by a veranda inclosed in screen, where bright yellow tables, red and black and yellow chairs and gayly-colored pillows are arranged in attractive carelessness. The interior offers a picture worthy of a lodge in the Adirondacks. At one end of the room, which is lighted by many wide windows protected by solid wooden shutters in case of storm, is a huge fireplace of stone, with arched doorways, outlined with stone on either side. An elk's head, a specimen of some fine monarch of the Canadian woods, looks down from the stone chimney and seems to stare directly to the far end of the room, where a deer's head, a creature of more frail beauty, keeps guard.

A fireside seat of wrought iron, upholstered in red leather, is convenient for toasting marshmallows, and throughout the rest of the room are wicker chairs of yellow with red and black trimming, and comfortable lounges and tables. The beams of the ceiling and the walls are of stained wood, while hanging at different places, ready for use after darkness has fallen, are wrought-iron lanterns, to which electricity has been attached. Cretonne curtains of black, with startling red flowers, hang at the windows, and the same coloring is carried out in the pillows and lounge covers, while on the floors are thrown Indian rugs of every hue.

A kitchenette, fully equipped with all modern conveniences, and made attractive with red woodwork and red and white curtains, also adds to the cheerfulness of the house.

Forest Hill lodge is not far distant and is in a slightly different vein, but serves as a woodland cabin and a shelter from rain and storms. It boasts of a tiny living room, a fireplace and kitchen and has been the scene of many a happy party. Its surroundings are of real rural beauty. A brook runs along by the side of the cabin and in its clear, cool waters, tree trunks quench their thirst and tiny minnows find happiness.

Through the pasture gate one passes onto a Japanese bridge of red that curves over the stream and is startling in its vivid contrast to the green about it. Fine old trees offer their shelter, and beyond can be seen a cleared hillside and pasture field where sweet-scented clover grows and the sunlight plays. Birds are there by the hundreds and sing their songs from early morn to the evening hours, when at a glimpse of the sunset can be caught, and insects begin to hum as song they sing the long night through.

Near Bellbrook, in a very secluded spot, is the lodge of Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Delscamp, formerly owned by Mrs. H. E. Talbott. It is built on the crest of a heavily wooded hill of 40 acres that will always be used by Dr. and Mrs. Delscamp as a park or a retreat, far from the haunts of man. A winding roadway, bordered by rare walnut trees, leads from the highway to the lodge, which is surrounded by giant oaks, some of which have withstood the storms and suns of three hundred years and still stand as sturdy, silent sentinels to guard the forest.

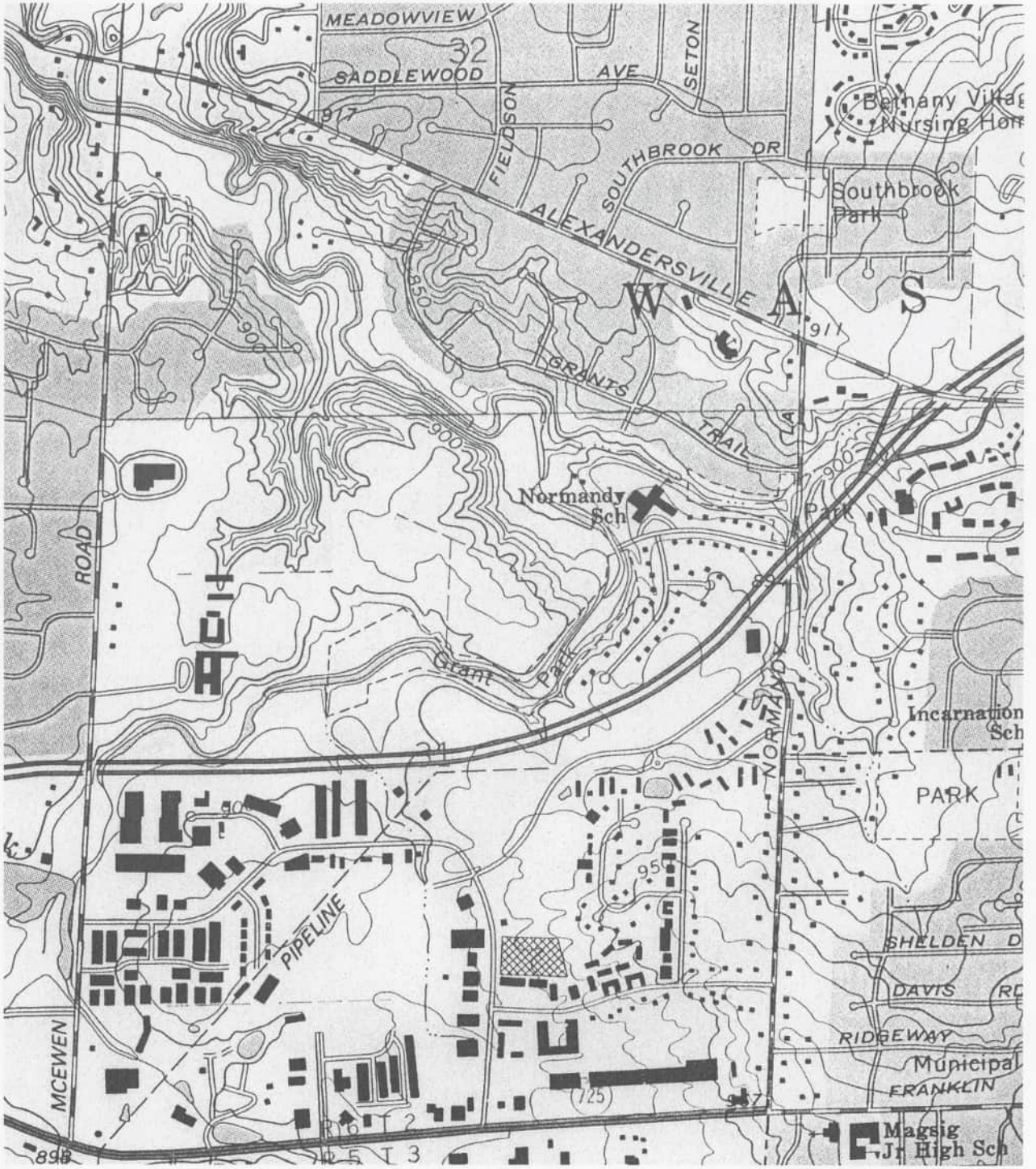
In a forest glade nearby, excavations are being made for a lake which will cover two acres and will be 15 feet deep. It is fed by a spring and will therefore be pure and cool and will be there for all future years to add its beauty.

The lodge itself is of rustic beauty and is used as a summer home by Dr. and Mrs. Delscamp. The exterior is of stained wood and suggestive of the woods, and even to the solid wooden shutters that protect the windows are carved with birds, small owls and butterflies.

In the interior is a large dining room recalling romantic hours in mountain cabins. A fireplace of boulders reaching to the top of the ceiling, and 20 feet in width, with an oven on either side, one to bake and the other to broil, is one of the most interesting features. A balcony runs around the room, with a double stairway leading to it, and with diamonds, hearts, spades and clubs carved in the natural wood of which it is built. Latches, relics of more primitive days, are used on the doors in place of locks, and the furnishings, which are rustic, are enlivened with the most vivid coloring in drapes and pillows. All modern conveniences are present to add their joy to living in this heavenly spot.

A number of other lodges are also added to the list. A cabin nearly a hundred years old has been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Delmar R. Hughes and set in a forest glade below Centerville, and Fox Hollow Farm, the country home of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Dickey, also boasts of a cabin in the woods.

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Topographical map, 1996. U.S. Geographical survey.

Map information

Below is a list of the maps and aerial photographs within this book.

Notes on use and scale.

Most maps and photographs in this book were produced at a scale of approximately 1/8" =1 mile. The scale of each map can be more accurately determined by realizing the distance between McEwen Road and Normandy Lane is 1 mile. Therefore measuring that distance on any individual map will determine its scale. As well flipping between full page maps or photos will allow the reader the ability to relate individual items and sites from one map format to another.

Smaller location maps

from 1851 County Atlas ____ 36
from 1875 County Atlas ____ 37
from 1931 Farm Map ____ 37

Full size maps/photos

July, 1968 Housing Plan on Aerial Photo ____ 73
1995 Aerial Photo showing Park & I-675 ____ 89
Color 1928 planning map for Grant Estate (drawn 2001) ____ 106
Color 1940 Grant Estate Map ____ 107
Color Map, Grant Park Land Acquisition ____ 108
Color Map, 2000, Grant Park ____ 109
Black and White, Grant Estate Map ____ 148

Additional Diagram

Floor Plan, Grant Mansion and Normandy U.M. Church ____ 110

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Web Connections

Biography

National Cash Register
http://www.ncr.com/history/history.htm
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/d?detr:20:./temp/~ammem_J6EW:

General Motors History *http://www.gm.com/company/corp_info/history/*

Reynolds and Reynolds *http://www.reyrey.com/about/historyall.asp*

Normandy Farm

Historical Society *http://www.mvcc.net/Centerville/histsoc/Welcome.html*

Normandy Church

Normandy United Methodist Church *http://www.donet.com/~normandyumc/history.html*

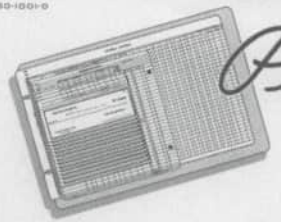
Normandy School

Normandy Elementary School *http://www.centerville.onlinecommunity.com/normandy.htm*

Grant Park

Centerville-Washington Park District *http://www.cwpd.org/*

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Post-Rite SYSTEMS COMPANY

DAYTON 1, OHIO

September 26, 1957

Dear :

We know you were saddened as we were to learn of the passing of Mr. Richard H. Grant, Sr., Chairman of our Board of Directors. His was the guiding hand that set our Company on its path of progress and success. He was not only one of America's greatest salesmen, but more important to all of us engaged in sales he was a champion of salesmen. He was proud to be known as a salesmen. He believed no one served a more worthwhile purpose than salesmen. He never lost his interest in the welfare of salesmen.

Mr. Grant was operated on at Roosevelt Hospital last Thursday, and seemed for a while to be progressing satisfactorily. Then he suffered several heart attacks to which he finally succumbed.

Services will be held tomorrow, Friday, at Normandy Church, which was converted from his former home, Normandy Farms. This is a small church which will have limited accomodations for flowers, which is why we advised in our wire not to send flowers. Because of this, we feel a memorial fund to be used for some worthwhile purpose in his memory would be more appropriate. Those of us who would normally have sent flowers are contributing a like amount to the fund. Others may participate to any extent they care to.

Due to the limited capacity of the church and the large number of out of town friends attending the services, the plant will not be closed. A period of silence in respect to his memory will be observed at 2:00 P. M. on Friday.

Sincerely,

Walt

W. G. Pfeiffer

WGP:dn

A DIVISION OF The REYNOLDS & REYNOLDS Co.

DAYTON, OHIO · CELINA, OHIO · DALLAS, TEXAS · LOS ANGELES, CAL.

WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURERS OF STANDARD ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

ESTABLISHED 1866



H. Grant, Vice-President in Charge of Sales, General Motors Corporation

ALBERT C. SANTY, M. D.
654 MADISON AVENUE
AT 60TH STREET
NEW YORK

October 16, 1957.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that Mr. R. H. Grant died at the Roosevelt Hospital on September 24th, 1957. He had had a surgical, suprapubic removal of his prostate gland on September 19th, 1957. His recovery was complicated by repeated pulmonary emboli which lead to severe cardiac strain and death.

Sincerely yours,

Albert C Santy MD

Albert C. Santy, M.D.

ACS:mez

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Index

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Index

(bold indicates picture)

Adams, Janet **124**
Adams, Loraine **64**
Alexander, Alicia **126**
Amos, Gay **130,** 132
Aquatania 11
Arnold, Carol 60
Ater, Becky 58-**59,** 138
Ater, Millie **58**-59, 67, 138
Ater, Rev. Milford E. 21, **58-60**, 61, **62,** 63, 67, 138, 139, 156
Atkinson, Judith 124

Bachmann, Nancy **64**
Back, Mary Rose 101, 102, **103, 114,** 132
Baker, Vivian **115**
Barbin, Amy **124**
Barclay, Margaret **114,** 126-**127,** 132
Barn Gang 5-6, 182
Bauer and Bauer Engineers 106
Beavon, Jenny 67
Beavon, Rev. Joseph C. 64, 67
Beck, Pam **115**
Becker, Kathy **115, 130**
Belgrave House 157
Bell, Jason **128**
Bendrick, Carolyn 66
Beyerle, Ross **129**
Bialeck, Alison **115**
Black, Janet **60, 65**
Black, Jim **60**
Blakeney, James 49
Blessing, Rich **88**
Boerger, Jason **117**
Bowers, Richard 49
Boy Scout Troop 289 **85, 94**
Boy Scout Troop 316 69, **112**
Boyle, Jim 72
Bradford, L. E. 49
Brigati, Erin **115**
Brightman and Mitchell Architects 65
Bristol Chandeliers **157**
Brown, Thirza 3
Buckingham, Pat 99-101
Buehrle, Dianne **115, 130**
Burkhart, Charlie 72
Bush, Keely **115**
Bush, Nancy 60

Cale, Will 99, 101
Callahan, Robert **3**
Carmine, Jim **27**
Carpenter, Eddie **29, 30**
Carpenter, Laura **31**
Carpenter, Nicky **26, 31**
Carpenter, Peggy Reynolds 11, 19, **23, 28-29, 30, 48**
Centerville 1929 **24**
Centerville City Schools 75, 76, 83, 94, 95, 99, 102, 125, 127
Centerville High School 122, 125
Centerville Kindergarten Village 99, 101, 128
Centerville Kiwanis Club 96, 97
Centerville Police Department 127
Centerville-Washington Park District 72-76, 83, **85,** 88, 90, 92, 96, 97, 122, 126
Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society iv, viii, ix, 50, 54
Chevrolet Motor Company 1, 8-10, **184-186**
Chillinsky, Joe **129**
Chimneys, The (former Grant Cabin) **78-79,** 83, **95, 101, 118, 131**
Chow, Irene **126**
Chryst, William A. 5
Chung, Pei Pei **126**
Church, Lil Talbott **20**
Clay, Joanna **130**
Clayton, Kathy **98**
Cline Elementary School 125
Clinton, Pres. William 127
Clouse, Gloria 64, 82, **114-115, 126-127, 130**
Collins, Rev. A. Donald 64, 67
Collins, Mary **64,** 67
Colvin, Diane **115, 130, 131,** 132
Community Chest Campaign 20
Conley, Rev. Phil 67
Conley, Sally 67
Cooke, Laura **115,** 127, **130,** 132
Copeland, Rev. Glenn E. 63-64, 67
Copeland, Sarah 63, 67
Corbin, Rep. Robert 76, **127, 129**
Cornelius, Mike 66
Corwin, John 95
Cox, Gov. James M. 9
Crabtree, Michelle **115**
Craig, Bishop Judith 66, 171
Crosby, Bing 13

Dart, Katharine **20**
Danis Company, B. G. 61
Davis, Meyer (Orchestra) 12
Davis, Walter 44
Dayton Flood, 1913 **4**
Dayton Philharmonic Association 20
Dayton-Wright Airplane Company 6-7
Decker, Margaret **52**
Deeds, Edward 2-**3,** 5-**6, 183**
Deeter, Sharon **115**
DELCO, Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company 5-8, 182-183
Delray Beach 21
DePalma, Carrie **129**
DePalma, Frank **127**
DePalma, Stephanie **115**
Dice, Denny **114**
Dillabaugh, Jane **64**
Diller, Dave **130**
Dodge, Joan **115**
Donnally, Becca 67
Donnally, Rev. Michael W. 64, 67
Drew, Cinde **115**
Driscoll Elementary School 122
Drury, Rachael **20**
Dupont, Lammot 7, 184-185
Dupont, Pierre S. 7, 184
Durant, William 6, 15, 182-183

Earle, Harley **29**
Eby, Mildred **43**
Eddington, Luann 66
Elder, Mr. & Mrs. 5
Elliott, Celia 53-**54, 132**
Elliott, Laura 36, 39, 42-**43,** 46, **49, 51,** 54, **132**
Elliott, Nevin 39-**40, 42,** 43-44, **45, 48,** 53, **132**
Elliott, Richard 39, **43-44,** 45-46, **51, 132**
Elliott, Russell 35-38, **39-40,** 42, **43-44,** 45, 48-**49, 50-51,** 56
Elliott, Webster 37
Elzerman, Nancy **124**
EDGE (Enrichment and Development for Gifted Education) 126
Erwin, Robert 101
Ewing, Doris **124**

Digitized by Andy Niekamp ~ andyniekamp@gmail.com ~ www.andyniekamp.com

Feola, Amy 114
Finley, Sam 124
Forbes, Bruce 27
Ford, Henry 6, 9
Ford Motor Company 9
Forster, L.H. 16
Frazer, Mary Jo 67
Frazer, Rev. David F. 65-67, 111
Fried, Melissa 129
Freking, Nancy 115
French, Clark, farmhouse 76, 77
Frigidaire 7-8, 162, 183-184

Gahris, Cindi 59
Gahris, Don 60
General Motors, GM 3, 7, 15-16, 182-187
George, Gordon 59
Gillespie, Hilda Whiffen 48
Glaze, Joyce 124
Goldman, Bobbie 130, 132
Gorski, Nick 114
Graeff, Barb 65
Graham, Della 64
Grant, Anne Hallam 2, 22
Grant Family, Coat-of-Arms 111, 151, 155
Grant, Gail see Slingluff, Gail Grant
Grant, George Franklin 2, 22, 27
Grant, Helen Slack King 17, 18-19, 25-26, 28-29, 30, 32-33, 185
Grant, Laura Elinor Williams 3, 6-7, 9, 14, 16, 18, 20-22, 25-26, 28-29, 36, 42, 58-59, 134, 136, 144, 149, 163-164, 165-166, 180, 182-185, 186-187, 189
Grant, Liz see Schroeder, Liz Grant
Grant, Mimi 32
Grant, Richard Hallam, Sr. vi, x, 158, 179, 181-187
  Chevrolet Years 1, 8-10
  Creating a Great Estate 10-14, 58-59, 72, 133-170
  DELCO Years 5-6, 7
  Early Years 2, 3
  Farm Life 35-56
  Frigidaire Years 7-8
  General Motors Years 15-16, 18
  NCR Years 2-5
  Retirement 20-21, 28-29
  Reynolds Connection 16-17, 160, 185-187
  The War Years 7, 19
Grant, Richard Hallam, Jr. 3, 6, 16-17, 18-19, 25-33, 36, 42, 51, 59, 74, 136, 156, 166, 183-191
Grant, Richard Hallam III 17, 19, 25-26, 31-32
Grant, Thirza Elinor 3, 5-6, 16, 18-19, 22-23, 25, 28-29, 156, 164-165, 182-190
Grant Cabin (see also Rock Creek Lodge and The Chimneys) 8, 10, 44, 45, 54-55, 78-79, 106, 118
Grant Life Science Center 38, 75, 91-98, 188-190
Grant Nature Center 37, 49-50, 78, 83, 85, 86-88, 99-104, 116-117, 123, 126, 189
Grant Park 37, 49-50, 71-90, 94-95, 99-100, 101-104, 108-109, 117-120, 126, 188-191
Gray, Kathy 118
Green, Charlotte 124
Griest, William, farm 77

Hain, Kay 99-100
Hanauer, Diana 66
Hanauer, Terry 66
Harlan, Byron 49
Harry, Rev. Tom 66-67
Harry, Rev. Jan 66-67
Hart and Hart Architects 61-62, 170
Hart, Robert 48
Harvard University 2
Harvey, Debbie 115
Harvey, Jackie 115
Hay, Arthur, H. 49
Heintz, Mayor Shirley 129
Henry III, Coat-of-Arms 151
Herrick, Bishop Paul 61, 171
Hetman, Cole 115
Hetman, Kyle 115
Hibberd, Chester 77
Hibberd, Lloyd 77
Himes Indian Mound 50
Hines, Jenny 81
Hirschi, Ron 130
Hithergreen Middle School 125-126
Hoeksema, Michele 67
Hoeksema, Rev. Ronald A. 64, 67
Hoffman, Joe 126
Hole Elementary School 122
Holes Creek 8, 10, 39, 45, 50, 54-55, 71-76, 77-78, 80-81, 82, 83, 85, 88, 93, 96, 100, 102, 106-109, 117, 126
Holladay, A. Randolph 19, 29
Hoover, Herbert 27
Howard, Charles S. 13
Howard, Lynn 13
Howell, Max Don 29
Huelsman, Neil 102
Huff, Steve 102, 103, 114, 118
Huffman, H. 59
Huffman, Janet 55
Huffman, Jean 55
Huffman, Ken 44, 55
Huffman, Mary Lou 55
Huffman, Mr. & Mrs. 5
Huffman, Tom 55
Huhyn Family 64
Hunnicaut, Frank 48
Hyland, Sheila 118

Incarnation Parochial School 94
Inglebarger and Henderson Architects 122
International Business Machine Company (IBM) 4, 17

Jackson, Dorothy Patterson 29
Jackson, Howell 29
James, John 48
Jeanmougin, Nancy 130
Jersey Classification Day 42, 51
Johnson, Chip 115
Johnson, Kris 115
Jollisse-Haas, Darin 66
Jones, Ruth Ann 58
Jordan-Marsh Company 2
Joyce, William H. 19
Jump, Alexander 42, 53, 163
Jump, Betty 53, 163
Jump, Gordon 53, 163
Jump, Jeffrey 53, 163

Karth, Wendy 115
Keever, Dr. Dudley 39
Keilholtz, Melissa 130
Kettering, Charles Franklin 2, 5, 6, 7, 21, 183-184
Key Largo Anglers Club 27
Kiernan, Nancy 118
Knierer, Sue 59
Kimberly, Jack 27
Kimes, R. Robert Rev. 64
King, Helen 25, 28
King, Helen Slack see Grant, Helen Slack King
King, Robert, Jr. 17
King, Robert, Sr. 17, 25, 28, 36
Kinghorn, Jane 65, 66
Kinghorn, Jon 66
Klinger, Janice 132
Kloppenburg, Kay 115, 130, 132
Knapp, Kristin 129
Knight, Jim 27

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Knight, Molly 132
Knudsen, Bunky **18**
Knudsen, William S. **8-9, 15, 18-19, 184**
Koepne, Robert 170
Kordik, Laura **118**
Kramer, Ed **85, 94,** 95, **96,** 97-99, 101-102, 104
Kunst, Jeff **114,** 126, **127**
Kwak, Eda **126**
Kwak, Kristina (Davis) **118**

Landess, Kathy **131**
Leland, Henry 5
Lentz, Dottie 59, **64**
Lentz, Fuzzy **64**
Lewis, Rick 66
Lian, Aye Aye Mu **66**-67
Lian, Rev. Hai Vung **66**-67
Link, Mitchell **114**
List, Evelyn 50
Little, Abraham **130**
Loganathan, Raj **129**
Long, Clyde **48**
Loschert, Larry 58
Loschert, Lib 58
Loudner, David 67
Loudner, Rev. Bonnie L. 65-67, **111**
Loudner, Rebecca 66
Lucas, Dale **64**
Lucas, Phyllis **64**
Lunsford, Jackie **115**

MacAulay, Karen **118**
Mack, Judy **115, 130,** 132
Macklin, Steve **88**
Magsig Middle School 122, 123, 125, 127
Magill, Denise **130**
Markworth, Andrew **128**
Martin, Abagail **115**
Massachusetts, Ipswich **2, 179**
Maxedon, Rev. Thomas H., Jr. 64, 67
McCord, Bill 64
McCoy, Carl 48
McDermott, Ray **27**
McEwen Road Barn **77**
McGahanan, Anne **93**
McIntire, Louise **20**
McQueen, Dan 37
Mead, Elsie Talbott 5, **20, 29**
Mead, George 5, **29**
Mehlberth, Roland (Sonny) 49
Mellows, Al W. 7
Messmer, Dr. William K. 58, 61, 171
Mesta, Perle 19
Midgely, Thomas, Jr. 7
Miller, Earl **46**
Miller, Edwin "Monkey" 59
Miller, Howard **54**
Miller, Joanna 66
Miller, Lillie **54**
Miradero 21
Mittler, Louis F. 122-123, **124**
Montgomery County Sheriff **126,** 127
Moore, Bob **ix**
Moore, Kristina **130**
Moore, Richard **59**
Morley, Chris **30**
Morley, Georgia **112**
Morley, Hamilton **112**
Morley, Melissa Slingluff **30, 33**
Morley, Nicholas **112**

National Cash Register, NCR, "The Cash" vi, 2-5, 182, 183
National Register of Historic Places 64, **151, 190**
Neal, Corey 132
Neighbor, Carol **130**
New England Telephone & Telegraph Company 2
Nordstrom, Chris 82, **126**
Norma Dee Bear **126,** 127
Norman D. Bear **114, 126,** 127
Normandy Elementary School 37, 49-50, 82-83, **93,** 94, **103, 112-115, 121-132, 188,** 191
Normandy Evangelical United Brethren Church **57-70,** 187-**188**
Normandy Farms Dairy **14, 38-56, 112,** 122, 123
Normandy Farms Development Company 49, 122
Normandy Farms Estate **105-107, 133-149, 184-185,** 187, **190**
Normandy Farms Mansion **10-14, 105, 133-173**
Normandy United Methodist Church 37, **57-70, 110-112, 134, 144-151, 188-191**
Nowicki, Karen **115**
Nyamweya, Nicolette **115**

Ohio State University 2, 129
O'Neil, Rebecca 115, 132
Ott, Bonnie **90**
Overly, Don 99, 102

Palmasano, Mark **115**
Park Avenue 21, 150, 157
Patterson, Henrietta 8, **20,** 134
Patterson, John H. **2-3,** 4, 15
Patterson, Robert 8, 134
Peabody, Wilson, and Brown Architects 134
Peale, Mundy **27**
Peiffer, Mary **124**
Perry, Dorothy **28**
Peterson Construction Company 122
Pfeiffer, Frank 17, **27**
Platt, Anne **20**
Pollard, Martha McQueen 37
Porter, Phil Dr. 21
Probasco, Betty **124**
Probasco, Rebecca **115**

Rebholz, John 151
Reed, Georgia **65**
Reed, Lucy Carr **20**
Reed, Phyllis **115**
Reeder, R.W. 48
Rene **14**
Reynolds, Edwin Sr. 5, **16, 180**
Reynolds, Edwin Jr. 16, **18,** 19
Reynolds, Edwin III **11,** 19, **23**
Reynolds, Ira **16, 178**
Reynolds, Florence 8, 16, 36-37, 77-78
Reynolds, Lucius **16, 178, 180**
Reynolds, Peggy see Carpenter, Peggy Reynolds
Reynolds, Stoddard 16
Reynolds, Susan **130**
Reynolds & Reynolds, R&R vi, 3, 16-**17, 19,** 20, **27**
Reynolds Cabin **41,** 77
Reynolds Cottage **26, 41,** 55
Reynolds Foundation **78**
Rikes Department Store 58
Rike, Ethel 5, **7, 20,** 24, 134
Rike, Fred 5, **7,** 24, 134
Risner, Winnie **65**
Rita, Jackie **130, 132**
Roach, Hal 13
Robinson, Helen **112**
Robinson, Jennifer Slingluff **30, 33**
Robinson, Miller **112**
Robinson, Olivia **112**
Robinson, Pat **30**

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Robinson, Shelly **88**
Rock Creek Lodge 8, **10**
Rock, Lewis B. 48
Rohrbacker, Rev. Gail D. 65, 67
Rohrbacker, Rich 67
Roll, John and Associates Architects 70
Roosevelt, Franklin D. 2, 19
Russell, Debbie **115**, 126, 129, **130**, 132
Russell, Jim **64**
Russell, Leota **64**

Samples, Lester 138
Sandrock, Stephanie **115**
Satzger, Peggy **115, 130**
Savage, Bette 126
Savage, Robert **114**, 124-125, **126-127**
Schaefer, Carl **65**
Scharrer, Meg **130**
Schell, Carl 19
Schenck, Mr. & Mrs. 5
Schide, Kendra **118**
Schneider, James A. **88**
Scholp, Al 67
Scholp, Rev. Phyllis H. 64, 67
Schroeder, Charles **33**
Schroeder, Kingsley **112**
Schroeder, Liz Grant **ix, 32-33**
Schroeder, Thiele **112**
Schultz, Lauren **114**
Scott, Ralph D. 74
Scudder, Stephanie **115**
Seibert, Carolyn 102
Shah, Neha **127, 129**
Shelcy, Marti **65**
Sinewe, Kathy **115**
Skidmore, Christin **115**
Skutt, Brian Edward **124**
Skywood 16-17
Slingluff, Charles, Jr. **30**
Slingluff, Charles III **30**
Slingluff, Gail Grant 17, **25-26, 30, 32**
Slingluff, Jennifer see Robinson, Jennifer Slingluff
Slingluff, Melissa see Morley, Melissa Slingluff
Sloan, Alfred P., Jr. **8**, 14, **15**, 16, 21, 184-187
Smiga, Pam **114, 115**
Smith, Barbara **130**
Smith, Carolyn 67
Smith, Gary **59**
Smith, Norma **124**
Smith, Pat **130**
Smith, Rev. Harvey 62, 67
Snider, Armetha 58, **65**
Snider, Mel 58, **65**
Snyder, O.H.P. 123
Sparks, Jim **130**
Srosiak, Eric **115**
Staudenmaier, Anna Marie **130**
Steade, Pam **115**
Steinfurth, Nancy **118**
Stevens, Judith **121, 124**
Stewart, Betty 132
Stingley Elementary School 122, 123
Stoecz, Michael **118**
Strominger, Jayne 126, **130**, 132
Stout, Barbara 123
Straughen, Bill 66
Straughen, Peggy 66
Stebbins, Laverne **65**
Stebbins, Lowell **65**
Swan, Jennifer **118**
Swillinger, Rachel **115**
Szloh, Josie **115**

Takahashi, Reina **129**
Tarpey, Melanie **115**
Tavani, Alice **115**
Taylor, Jan **115, 130,** 132
Thobaben, Robert, Jr. **94**
Thobaben, Janet **64, 130**
Thomas, Chuck **59**
Thomas, Jaylene **115**
Tippett, Katie **129**
Timelines, 1860-2000 177-191
Tischer, Lois **115, 130,** 132
Titko, Doris 67
Titko, Rev. Charles E. 64, 67
Tower Heights Middle School 125, 127
Trap Shoot Pit **78, 79**
Treffinger, Jim **65**
Treffinger, Joann **64, 65**
Trout, David 67
Trout, Pat 67
Truenbach, Richard **40**

Vallee, Rudy **158**
Valley, Janeth **115**
Vanderpool, Lena **124**
Veritys 134
Village South Elementary School 125-126, 128
Vogler, Rev. Kim 67
Voinovich, Gov. George O. **127**

WLW Radio 61, 156
Walking Tour of the Grant Mansion and Grounds **133-173**
Walsh, Shirley **130,** 132
Walter, Esther 126-127, **130,** 132
Washington Township Fire Department 127
Washington Township Maps **36, 37**
Waterworks **48**-46, 126
Watkins, Jack 11, 19, **22**
Watkins, Winnie 11, 19
Watson, Thomas **3-4**, 5, 17
Watts, Hadley 49, 92-93, 101
Watts Middle School 81, **109,** 125
Weber, Florence **129**
Weller Elementary School 122
Welp, Anne **115**
Whitlock, Kristin **115**
Whitmore, Lois **124**
Whitney, Gordon 94-95
Wight, Collins 49
Wilcon Corporation, General Contractors 70
Williams, James A. 93-94
Williams, Laura Elinor see Grant, Laura Elinor Williams
Williams, Sarah Watkins **22**
Wilson, Charles F. 21, 186-**187**
Wilson, H. Thomas 66
Wine Cellar **161**
Woodward, Celia 123, **124**
Wright Brothers 6, 182
Wyandt, Donna **124**

Yeck, Bill 72-75

Zehrung, Samuel D. 105, 134-136, 139, 149
Zipperian, June 63
Zubrick, George **130**

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Normandy Farms:

The Story of Dreams and Dream-Makers

Chronicled in this book is the life of Richard Hallam Grant, Ipswich, Massachusetts, native, a dream-maker who came to Dayton seeking success in business. He dreamed of corporate advancement and acquisition of land for an estate and mansion.

His dreams came true:

- Creation of Normandy Farms, a nearly 800-acre spread, in lush Washington Township landscape during the Roaring Twenties.
- A palatial home modeled on European architecture.
- An eventual position as vice-president and a director of General Motors.

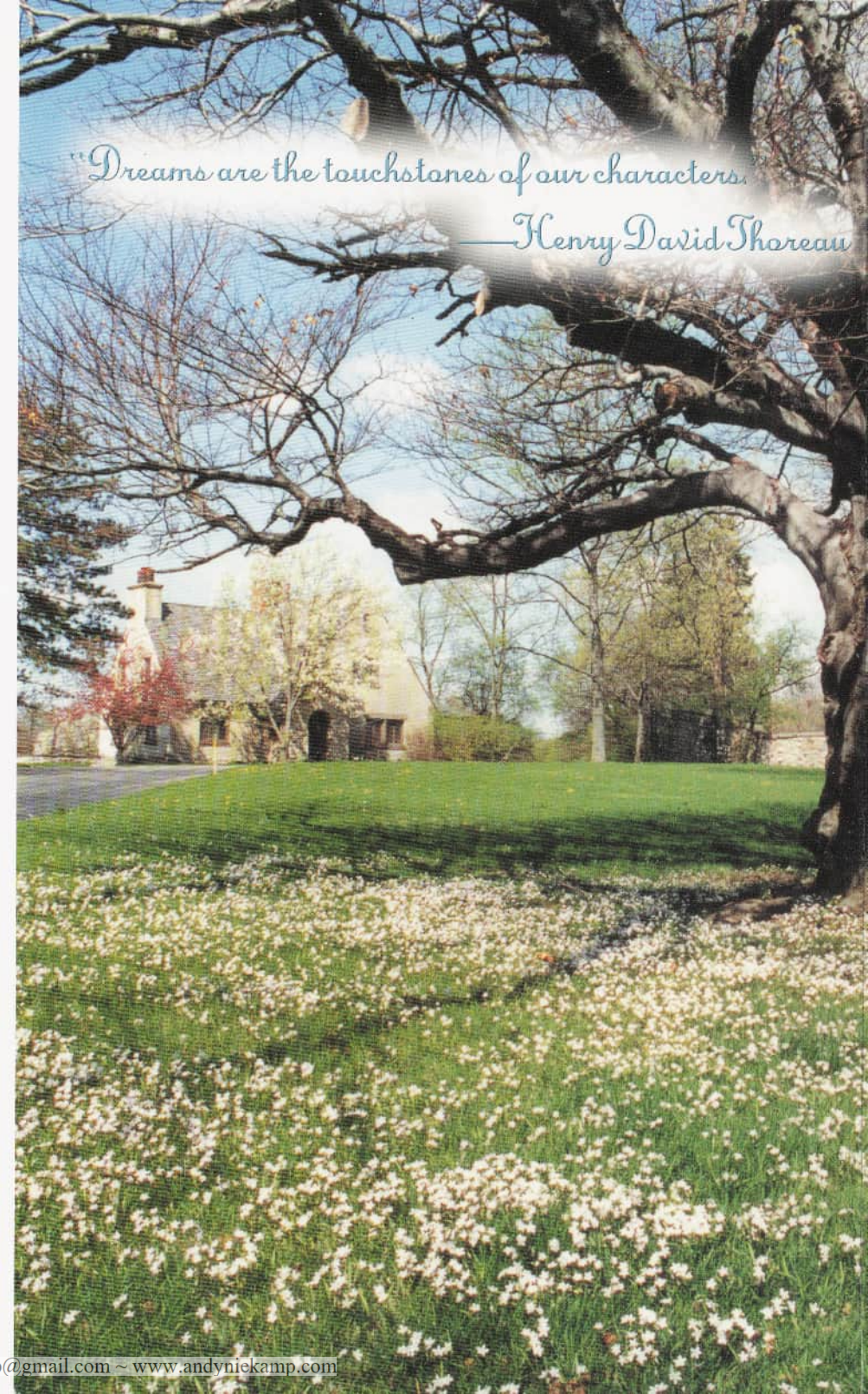
Others depicted who came after Grant, also dreamed great dreams:

- A congregation envisioned a house of worship in the former Grant mansion.
- A community of nature lovers imagined park land.
- A school district foresaw an elementary school and nature center.
- Developers conceived upscale housing.

How these dream-makers realized ways to use Grant's estate and prime land over the years makes for a compelling story told by qualified local writers.

For the first time all aspects of Normandy Farms are compiled in one volume, telling of one man's influence here and the ultimate best use of his estate for community enrichment.

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