

Delaware County District Library

Ostrander Branch
75 N. Fourth St. P.O. Box 6
Ostrander, OH 43061



OSTRANDER, OHIO

HISTORY

1852 - 2002



Main Street in 1800's



North Street in 1800's

Sesquicentennial

June 30 - July 6, 2002

A History of Delaware County District Library's Ostrander Branch

The Delaware County District Library has served the citizens of Delaware County since 1896, with a library facility in the city of Delaware. In the early 1940's the library purchased its first bookmobile, allowing library service to extend beyond the walls of the Carnegie Building.

The village of Ostrander was among the many visits that the bookmobile made around the county, stopping at the Ostrander United Methodist Church. Ostrander residents and their families were delighted to be able to have a "library" so close to their

homes.

During the 1970's, service began to Buckeye Valley Schools, as the bookmobile parked each month for an entire day at Buckeye Valley West Elementary School. Students and teachers took great advantage of this service, and before long, the Delaware County District Library staff began monthly classroom visits, further enhancing this service.

With the encouragement and leadership of Opal McAlister, Joe and Mildred Conklin, Carolyn VanBrimmer and other Ostrander residents, a plea was made to the library's Board of Trustees for a more permanent library facility in the village in the 1980's. These community leaders promised support, both in terms of usage and funding, for a library building, and discussions began on how to

accomplish this goal.

In 1987, a unique solution to this challenge became a reality. Upon purchasing a new bookmobile for the library system, the Board of Trustees voted to position the "retired" bookmobile on a lot near the fire department in Ostrander. The "mini-branch" was opened 20 hours each week, staffed by many eager volunteers and supervised by Mary Jane Santos, Assistant Director of the library. True to their word, the residents of Ostrander provided the electricity and the location free of charge, making this venture affordable for the library system.

In 1990, the voters of Delaware County approved the \$4.5 million bond issue necessary to renovate and expand the main library, and build

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Honoring Our Veterans

A Veterans' Day Ceremony is held on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans Honor Board on South Main Street.

It was on November 11th, 1918 at 11:11 a.m. that the peace treaty signifying the end of World War I was signed. That was to end the "war of all wars."

We know that not only World War II followed that armistice, but the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War and Desert Storm.

To honor all Ostrander area veterans who served in those wars, an honor board was dedicated.

The original was taken down to be repainted by a man who lived on County Line Road northwest of Ostrander. No one knows when the original board was put up or when it was taken down. The man died and the barn where the original honor board was stored burned.

Fortunately, Yvonne Ball was able to get her hands on a photo

taken some time about 1958 which showed the original names on the honor board.

She used the picture to retrieve the original names and spent the next year gathering more names and information.

She was assisted by Mary Parrott and her daughter, Lynn Parrott, and a few donations. The cost was in excess of \$6000. Yvonne hopes there is enough donations to maintain the board for many years. The new board was dedicated on November 11th, 1997.

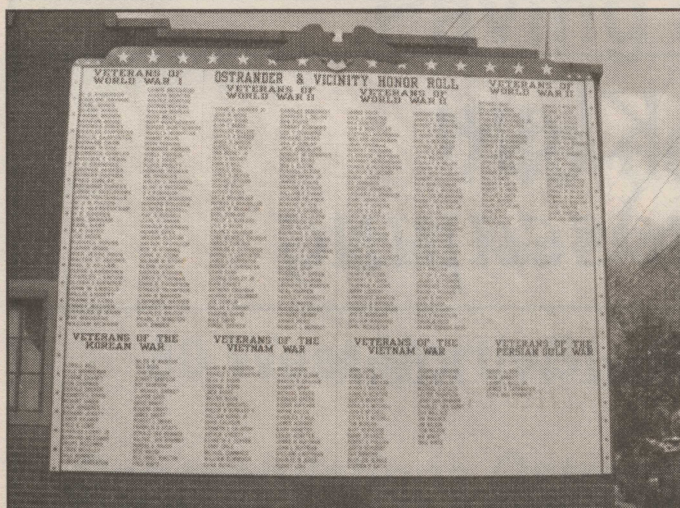
The Honor Board recognizes all veterans, but especially hopes it will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who died serving America.

"Some of these (veterans) who were killed in the service this will be the only recognition they will get other than from their families."

Yvonne says if any names are missed we are very sorry.



The Ostrander Branch of the Delaware County District Library.



The Veterans Honor Roll hangs in Ostrander on South Main Street.



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Library History... (Continued from Pg. 8)

branches in Powell and Ostrander. The Ostrander Branch, 75 N. Fourth St. was dedicated on Wednesday, July 3, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. with a "decommissioning" ceremony at the "mini-branch," followed by a procession to the new branch facility. A big, blue ribbon encircled the new building, and dozens of Ostrander citizens were part of the grand ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Currently, the Ostrander Branch is open 30 hours per week and houses more than 20,000 items, including books,

videos, DVD's, audiocassettes, books on CD, and art prints. Ostrander residents can access the Internet and search many databases on the two online computers available for public use. Branch Manager Harla Lawson and Branch Assistant Carolyn Duncan present several story times each week for children of all ages and their families. Book discussions for adults and other programs are also part of the branch's regular schedule.

The Delaware County District Library, like all public

libraries in Ohio receives most of its funding from the state's personal income tax. Except for the bond issue that will be

retired in the next few years, no local funds are used to operate the library or its branches.



Ostrander Branch Library Bus Mobile

Railroad Route... (Continued from Pg. 14)

two railroad cars left the tracks in an accident caused by a broken wheel.

When the late Merle Brittenham started on as an engineer on the line in 1945, passengers could still ride between Delaware and Springfield. Trains left Delaware at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily and returned at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, seven days a week. He also said there were freight trains with 60 to 65 cars daily.

The Delaware to Springfield run was abandoned on July 22, 1961, but freight trains still ran to Ostrander for ten more years.

According to Peter White,

23 Woodland Avenue, Ostrander an employee of the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad, Ostrander was the last place on the Springfield line to have a depot agent on duty. He was Robert R. Vance. White also said the Ostrander depot was the last railroad building standing on the line before its demolition about 1969.

On February 10, 1971, the last railroad trip was made to Ostrander. A train carrying a carload of coal ended more than a century of rail service to the community.

During that last rail trip, according to former Ostrander Farmers Exchange manager Ralph Gabbert, 2675 Ohio 257,

the train came off the tracks three times between White Sulphur Springs and Ostrander.

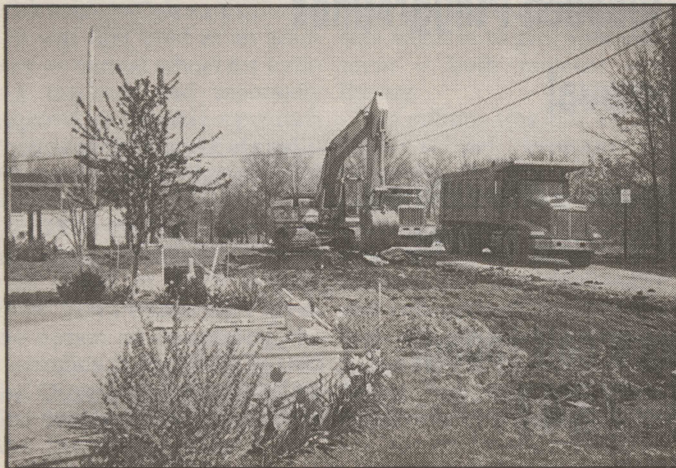
The reason for the discontinuance of rail service? Besides the problems with the tracks there was no real need for a train. The Ostrander Farmers Exchange had gone out of business and it had

been the only business in Ostrander to use the train to any degree.

In 1972, the Delaware Farmers Exchange took out a one-year lease on the former Ostrander exchange. The owners attempted to re-establish rail service, but to no avail.



The Big 4 Depot in Ostrander approximately 1920.



Local history being removed from Ostrander as the old railroad tracks were removed from South Main Street in May 1997.

STEVE SCHULTZ TRUCKING

*35 years just by
'word of mouth!'*