

LOCAL HISTORY TRIVIA

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Parkersburg & Wood County Public Library

Connecting Community -- Broadening Horizons

Dated Thursday, April 23, 2020

Please read the following digitized document:

The History of Beechwood Addition, Parkersburg, West Virginia

and the Parkersburg Iron & Steel Company

by James L. Miracle

Located under Genealogy Digital Collection

then have fun and learn from the following trivia questions.

Trivia 1: There was a very special person in the life of author James L. Miracle. Jim Miracle referred to this person as, "my oldest girlfriend." Who was this special person in Jim's life?

- a. Mrs. Klein from Mister Bee Potato Chip Co.;
- b. Grandmother Blankenship;
- c. Snuff, the family pet; or
- d. Cousin, Julie Garretson.

Trivia 2: In 1892, the Parkersburg City Council determined that the City needed a corporate body of citizens to handle the multitude of calls and inquiries it received pertaining to the City's lucrative positioning for manufacturing and distribution centers. As such, the Parkersburg City Council created the Board of Trade for the City of Parkersburg. This Board was very instrumental in approving the construction of the Parkersburg Iron and Steel Plant at Beechwood. Although this organization lapsed into nonexistence in 1909, it re-emerged through a body of business men and still functions to this day in the City of Parkersburg. What is the current name for the Board of Trade?

- a. Trade Extension Committee;
- b. Manufacture's Association;
- c. Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley; or
- d. Manufacturing Alliance of Parkersburg.

Trivia 3: The Beechwood Addition was specifically plotted alongside the Parkersburg Iron & Steel Company for the benefit of the workmen employed to work the plant. However, a great section of the plotted acreage was prone to flooding. Flooding devastation destroyed many of the Beechwood homes. Ultimately, one portion of the plotted terrain was cut off and many of the homes that had been built there were relocated. The original plat found at the beginning of this publication, depicts a somewhat triangular section from Pond Run to Poplar Street where these homes were located. One home located at 127 Queen Lane belonged to Lewis B. Russell. According to the 1910 Census, where was Mr. Russell's home relocated?

- a. Murdoch Avenue;
- b. West Virginia Avenue;
- c. Atlantic Avenue; or
- d. Lincoln Avenue.

Trivia 4: Mr. Roderick Merrick speaks fondly of a motorman by the name of Mr. Davis who operated an Interurban car which ran from Parkersburg to Williamstown. As is accustomed even today, motormen were required to sound their whistles prior to arriving at a crossroad. Mr. Davis had a very notable toot for his whistle that went like this: short toot, long toot, short toot, short toot. If you listen very carefully, Parkersburg has another Mr. Davis that works the rail cars running behind the Grand Central Mall towards Williamstown. This unknown train conductor also has a signature toot that goes like this: long toot and then five short toots. If you are up in the early mornings, and listen carefully, you cannot miss this signature whistle. So, is this phenomenon one of:

- a. History repeating itself;
- b. Mr. Davis's spirit continuing to conduct the trains from Parkersburg to Williamstown;
- c. A great-great grandson of Mr. Davis who is following the family tradition;
or
- d. A research project yet to begin on the conductors behind the train whistles of the Mid-Ohio Valley (which could include the tug boat whistles on the Ohio River).

Trivia 5: What building on the National Register of Historic Places in Parkersburg was almost not built due to the National Steelworkers Strike circa 1905. The Steelworkers, who wanted to unionize, did not want the money of the namesake for the building of this facility.

- a. Logan AME Church;
- B. Parkersburg High School;
- c. Carnegie Library; or
- d. McDonough Wildlife Refuge.

Answers can be found on the next page

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Answers:

Trivia 1: b.

Trivia 2: c.

Trivia 3: c.

Trivia 4: d.

Trivia 5: c.