

Board of Trustees

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Clarence Town Board Liaison
Mark Woodward, Town Historian

Board Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month.

Meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the Clarence History Museum.

President's Comments

We hope everyone is well. 2020 has been a very trying year for us all. We had to cancel our special programs. Museum and genealogy research hours were altered or entirely closed down. With most of our volunteers in the risk age, we erred on the side of caution. The Trustees are hopeful that 2021 will bring some relief to the restrictions, so the society can get back to some sort of normalcy.

We want to thank everyone for your patience this past year and want you to know our main goal was to keep everyone healthy and safe. During this "down" time, exhibits are being worked on. There is going to be a new Norman Rockwell collection exhibit. The Clarence Book Collection is now at a new cost of \$13 and orders may be placed on the society website.

Plans continue for the Erie County Bicentennial Celebration for 2021. The Clarence Historical Society is partners with Alden Historical Society, Lancaster Historical Society and Newstead Historical Society. The official dates are April 2021 – October 2021.

Please keep watching our social media – website, Facebook, etc. for more information and opening of the museum. Remember – we are all in this together!

I wish everyone a safe and happy 2021!

Sincerely,
Doug Larkin
President

A RANSOM NOTE

In This Issue

President's Comments

We hope you enjoy the look back to 50 years from January, February, and March of 1971!

The Town of Clarence will be celebrating its incorporation of 213 years in March!



Town historian has busy year

Oneta Baker, town historian, has helped residents of several different states with their historical research during the past year.

In a year-end report submitted to the town board and read at last Wednesday's session, Mrs. Baker said Clarence materials have been used by a wide assortment of researchers. Authors have asked for material, and an inquiry from a person working on Indian culture got a helping hand from the historian.

Hunt's Corners Baptist Church, celebrating its 133rd anniversary, received memorabilia for a historical display during their celebration.

Many different girl scout groups have also visited with Mrs. Baker, and were given the opportunity to study and ask questions about our town's history.

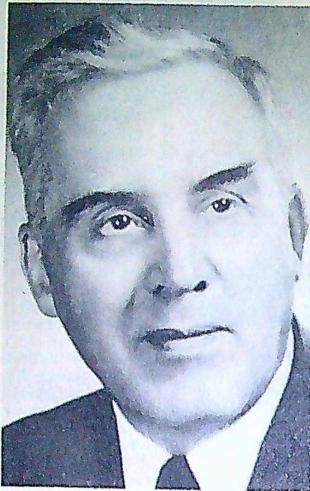
Wallace J. Gibson, noting Mrs.

Baker's tireless efforts in serving the town of Clarence, said that "very little of the work she has done is reported here," and that we are "quite fortunate in having a person like Oneta Baker who gives everyone in town who needs service all she can."

Councilman Gerard J. Richter said the whole board agrees the job being done by Mrs. Baker is excellent, and Supervisor Norman L. Witnauer closed the meeting by thanking her for the report.

Article Sourced from the January 13, 1971 edition of the Clarence Bee

Town to honor Dr. Fisher with dinner on March 5



DR. FISHER

Medical School and received his diploma in 1924. His marriage to Beatrice Seibert of Niagara Falls took place in 1925 and their son George Byron was born the following year.

Dr. Fisher was appointed Health Officer of the Town of Clarence in 1928 and held the post until 1950 when the work of the Town Health Department was taken over by the Erie County Health Department. As Town Health officer, he inaugurated well-baby clinics in 1931, the first clinic of this type in Erie County outside Buffalo.

He served the Erie County Health Board as secretary and was chairman of the Erie County Laboratory Board. For about 40 years he served as Health Officer for the Clarence School System. Dr. Fisher has always taken pride and interest in the Town of Clarence and the community. He served as first president of the Clarence Center Community Council following its organization in 1928. In addition, he was a member of the board of the New York State Citizens' Council.

As Health Officer, Dr. Fisher became more than ever aware of the problems facing a growing town and in 1941 when the Town Board appointed a planning board and zoning commission Dr. Fisher accepted the chairmanship. Serving with him on the first board were W.D. Folger, Paul Williams, Mrs. Albert Buyers and Edward J. Smith. As a result of their efforts, Clarence has the distinction of being the first town of second class to adopt a zoning ordinance.

Proud of his heritage, Dr. Fisher helped organize the Historical Society of Town of Clarence and served as its first president. At the Clarence Sesquicentennial in 1958 Dr. Fisher was president of the board of directors.

Always thinking of the future, Dr. Fisher in 1955 was among those who called together a group of citizens and professional people to look into the possibility of the establishment of a hospital in the Amherst-Clarence area. He since served on the board of directors for the Amherst-Clarence Hospital Association.

His other community organizations include Clarence Lions Club and a life long membership of Clarence Post 834 of the American Legion.

A testimonial dinner on March 5 at the Cordon Bleu, Genesee St., will honor Dr. Daniel Carl Fisher who has served his community since January 1925 when he opened his first office in Clarence Center.

The dinner is co-sponsored by Rotary Club of Clarence and Citizens Advisory Committee. Arrangements are being chaired by Paul D. Beers and Howard J. McConkey. A dutch treat cocktail hour at 6 p.m. will be followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets at \$6 are available at the Clarence BEE office, M&T Bank in Clarence and from members of the sponsoring groups. A limited number are available.

Dr. Fisher was born May 13, 1896 in Clarence, the son of George and Suzanna Long Fisher. He was graduated from Parker High School in 1913 and taught in the rural district schools of Clarence prior to entering Cornell University where he was graduated in 1918. He enlisted in the U.S. Medical Hospital, Fort Ordgelthorpe, Ga. Following his service years, Dr. Fisher entered the University of Buffalo

THE CLARENCE CENTRAL SENIOR HIGH
CONCERT WIND ENSEMBLE
(GARY GOOD, DIRECTOR)
presents
THE FREE DESIGN
IN CONCERT AT
KLEINHANS MUSIC HALL
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1971
3:00 p.m.
ADMISSION
Adults \$4.00 Students \$3.00
Special Rate of \$2.50 for Student Groups of 20 or More
Plus 2 Adult Complimentary Tickets
Checks payable to: CLARENCE BAND BOOSTER CLUB, INC.
Box 44, Clarence, N. Y. 14031

Fire Calls

TOWN OF CLARENCE,
AKRON & NEWSTEAD

- Jan. 11, 11:04 a.m., 104 Skyline Dr., Silent alarm, Akron Fire Co.
- Jan. 11, 12:28 p.m., Unnecessary alarm, Harris Hill Fire Co.
- Jan. 11, 12:31 p.m., 9516 Main St., fire, Clarence Fire Co.
- Jan. 11, 12:45 p.m., Goodrich and Main Sts., Silent alarm, Harris Hill Fire Co.
- Jan. 11, 4:08 p.m., 9516 Main St., Rekindle, Clarence Fire Co.
- Jan. 12, 11:27 a.m., 4820 Kraus Rd., first aid, Clarence Fire Co.
- Jan. 12, 6:13 p.m., Sheridan Dr., near Main, car, Harris Hill Fire Co.
- Jan. 13, 1:51 a.m., 5661 Barnum Rd., first aid, Newstead Fire Co.
- Jan. 14, 3:41 a.m., Transit and Clarence Center Rd., first aid Transit Fire Co.
- Jan. 14, 9:11 a.m., Sheridan and Transit, first aid, Harris Hill Fire Co.
- Jan. 15, 8:37 p.m., Counsel House Rd., chimney, Akron Fire Co.
- Jan. 16, 3:41 a.m., Main St. and Parkledge Dr., first aid, auto accident, Clarence Fire Co.
- Jan. 16, 3:49 a.m. 16 Franklin St., Trans. Newstead Fire Co.
- Jan. 16, 11:40 a.m., 6647 Tonawanda Creek Rd., Garage, Rapids Fire Co.
- Jan. 16, 2:46 p.m., 497 Strickler Rd., first aid, Clarence Fire Co.
- Jan. 17, 3:14 a.m., Bloomingdale Rd., first aid, Akron Fire Co.
- Jan. 17, 3:16 a.m., Bloomingdale Rd., Ambulance, Newstead Fire Co.
- Jan. 17, 8:14 p.m., 8896 Hurlburt Lane, first aid, Harris Hill Fire Co.
- Jan. 17, 10:30 p.m., 8765 Howard Dr., first aid, Harris Hill Fire Co.
- Jan. 17, 10:58 p.m., 20 Ekerson Ave., Trans. Newstead Fire Co.
- Jan. 18, 7:36 a.m., Transit Rd., first aid, auto accident, Harris Hill Fire Co.

Articles sourced from
the January 20, 1971
edition of the Clar-
ence Bee

Due to Covid-19 and the continued uncertainty ahead, we have decided not to schedule any programs for the clubhouse for 2021. We are keeping the best interest of our members, volunteers, and speakers in mind!
We hope to be back in action for 2022!



RE-OPENING SOON

NEFF'S

DOG n SUDS®



Famous
CONEY DOGS
CHAR-CO-BURGERS

Watch For Our Opening Ad

World's Creamiest
ROOT BEER
FRENCH FRIES

9780 Main Street – The Family Drive-In – Clarence, N. Y.

Welcome back to the board, Joseph McGreevy!
Joe has already brought fresh ideas and a new approach...we are very much looking forward to working with Joe!



Ralph Dick, (far left) president of the Lions Club of Clarence sells Supervisor Norman L. Witnauer the first ticket to the Lions' annual pancake breakfast to be held on Sunday, Feb. 28 in the Clarence Central High School cafeteria from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Looking on (from left to right) are Councilmen Gerard J. Richter and Harold W. Cory.

ELECTRAK
ELECTRIC TRACTOR



MORE VERSATILE THAN ANY OTHER TRACTOR YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE.

ELECTRAK can be your complete outdoor power center, with quick, easy attachments for:

- Mowing grass
- Snow plowing or blowing
- Garden tilling
- Grass or leaf sweeping
- Hauling a cart
- and many others

ELECTRAK also has hand accessories for every job.

HARVEY H. PFENNIG
TRANSIT RD. at Millersport Hwy.
688 - 9061

Open 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Daily - Sat. from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Articles sourced from the February 3, 1971 edition of the Clarence Bee

Clarence Citizen's Council adopts new emblem

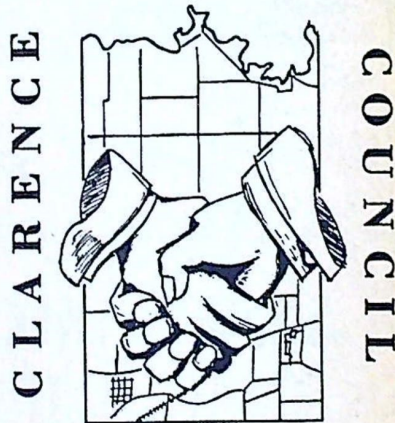
The Clarence Citizens' Council, recently adopted this emblem, designed by George Cox, vice-president. The clasped hands covering the map of the town of Clarence indicate the purpose of the Council, unity in efforts to promote the well-being of Clarence residents and improvements in the community. The emblem will be used by the Council in all its work.

Calendars have been posted in the Town Hall, Seitz Market on Goodrich Rd., Clarence Center; Bell's Market, Main St. and Roxbury Dr.; Harris Hill Plaza, Grant City and Lawrence Paul's in Transittown.

There is a book at the Town Hall in which any organization may list its meetings or activity. The Calendar Committee will pick this up a week preceding the first of the next month and all notations will be entered on the calendars as listed, insofar as space permits.

So far there are twenty organizations represented and Membership Committee urges all organizations which do not have membership in the Council now, to

CITIZEN'S



1970

send a representative to the next Council meeting at 8 p.m. March 17 in order to learn what mutual benefits can accrue from membership in the Council which meets in the Clarence Town Park.

Article sourced from the March 3, 1971 edition of the Clarence Bee

OLD RED MILL

... a country inn built in 1858. Charming atmosphere with Rathskeller & Caboose Lounge. Serving Lunch & Dinner (over 20 Entrees) 5 Dining Rooms.

8326 MAIN ST.
 ¼ mile E. of Transit,
 633-7878. Clarence

Article sourced from the February 24, 1971 edition of the Clarence Bee



Honored by 1936 football team

Wilson Greatbatch of Clarence was honored by the 1936 Championship Football team of West Seneca High School. The award followed a speech he made, recently, on his invention of the heart pacer, at a meeting of the Houghton College - Buffalo Campus Women's Auxiliary.

A graduate of West Seneca High School, Mr. Greatbatch is shown with some of the team's members: Joseph Barren, Paul Friedman, Mr. Greatbatch, Joe Hartnett and

Coach Bill Schill; back row - Charles Hull, Mike Dillon, Norwood Stevens and Laurens Dietz.

Mr. Dietz, director of physical education at the Frontier Central High School, gave Mr. Greatbatch a framed picture of the team.

Mr. Greatbatch was unaware when he made the speech that the gentlemen were in the audience.

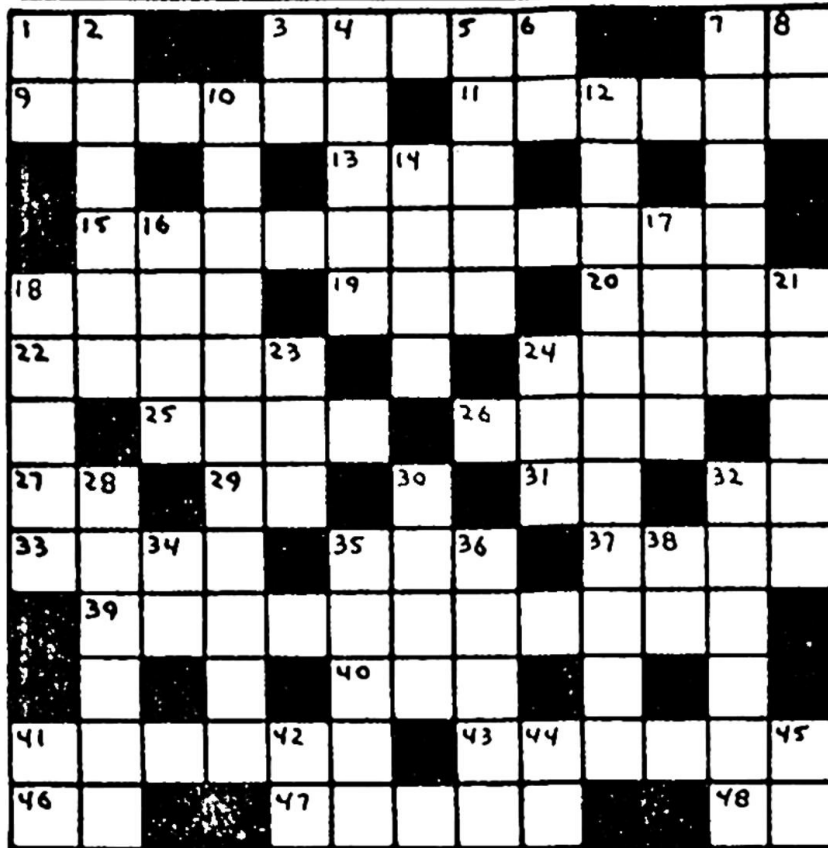
Ten Years Ago

MARCH 2, 1961

Wilson Greatbatch of 10865 Bodine Rd., made the Saturday Evening Post (March 4 issue) in a story about his pacemaker entitled "Making a Heartbeat Behave." Recognized nationally as a life saver, the electronic pacemaker that has proved most successful was designed by Mr. Greatbatch and "was assembled by him in the barnloft workshop behind the 130-year-old remodeled house in suburban Clarence where he and his wife and five children live" states the article.

Crossword Puzzle from the January 13, 1971 edition of the Clarence Bee

CROSSWORD • • • *By A. C. Gordon*



ACROSS

- 1 - Like
- 3 - Grudge
- 7 - Greek letter
- 9 - Prolonged denunciation
- 11 - Revolving machine parts
- 13 - Social party
- 15 - All-around adaptability
- 18 - ...films
- 19 - Biblical escapee from Sodom
- 20 - An equal
- 22 - An instant
- 24 - To obscure
- 25 - Melody
- 26 - Nautical pole
- 27 - Public conveyance (abb.)
- 29 - Roman 450
- 31 - Exist
- 32 - Parent
- 33 - Be appropriate
- 35 - To sound forth
- 37 - Humble
- 39 - Prodigals

- 40 - Electrically-charged atom
- 41 - Makes merry
- 43 - Experimented
- 46 - Public announcement
- 47 - Slightest
- 48 - Thus

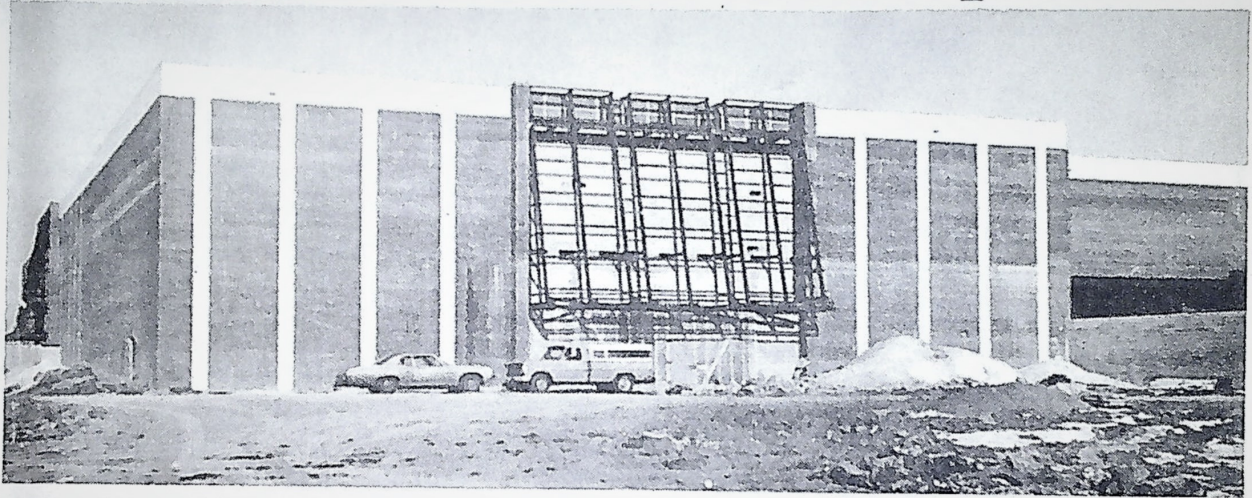
DOWN

- 1 - Preposition
- 2 - One who sifts
- 3 - Without a day (Latin abb.)
- 4 - Flower part

- 5 - Characteristic
- 6 - Educational Orders (abb.)
- 7 - Plundered
- 8 - Exists
- 10 - Land cultivation
- 12 - Mechanical pounders
- 14 - British school
- 16 - Exclude
- 17 - To rend
- 18 - Agitates
- 21 - Fortified place
- 23 - Terminus
- 24 - Health resort
- 28 - Hurred
- 30 - Italian beach resort
- 32 - Pulpy masses
- 34 - Personal degree of knowledge
- 35 - Medical plant
- 36 - Leases
- 38 - Erbium (chem.)
- 41 - Sun god
- 42 - Literary License (abb.)
- 44 - Latin "and"
- 45 - Perform



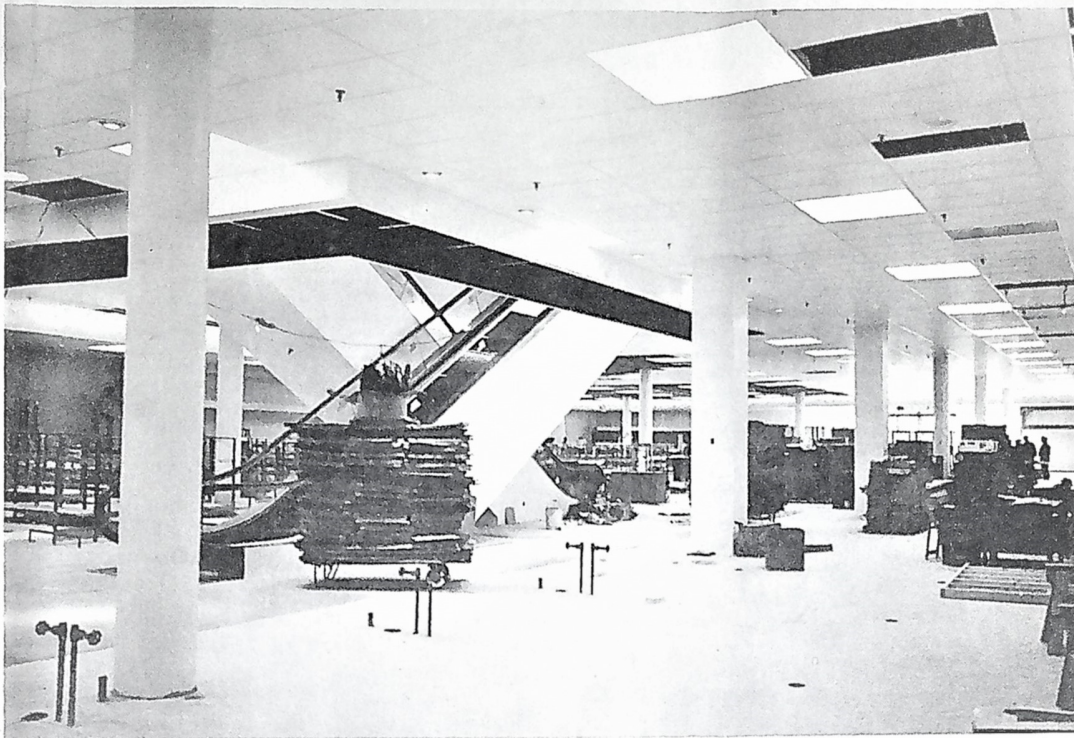
New Mall takes shape



Work has passed the half-way mark at the Eastern Hills Mall shopping plaza on Transit Rd. in Clarence. When completed in August, its 92 stores plus four complete department stores -- Sears, Adam Meldrum & Anderson, Hengerer's and Penny's -- will constitute a plaza at least twice as large as any other in Western New York.

In the top photo above, interior work is completed on the Sears store to meet an opening date set for March 9.

In the lower photo, AM&A's structure, represents the largest branch of this locally-owned chain of department stores. Located in the center of the Mall, AM&A's plans an August opening with the large portion of the plaza's stores.



New Mall takes shape

Articles Sourced from the January, 20 1971 edition of the Clarence Bee



Post cards in this issue of the newsletter are courtesy of Patricia Geiger.



Memorial Parade Approved
 American Legion Post No. 838 received approval to parade along Main Street from the High School to the Town Park in celebration of Memorial Day at 11 a.m., May 31. They explained that the growth of the parade necessitated the change in starting the location which has been at Parker Elementary. "March 24, 1971"



A Sears salute

An American flag which once flew over the Capitol building in Washington was presented to Sears, Amherst, Michelle Joy Forbes to John H. Rollins, Sears Clarence manager, and Charles W. Cox, right, Sears WNY group manager. The store opened Monday after a Saturday look-see tour by Clarence and Amherst neighbors.

Looking back in 1971, there were 3 major projects that took place in the area, that benefited the Town of Clarence.

- The design of the Clarence Town Hall
- The design of the Eastern Hills Mall
- The design of Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital



Something new has been erected on the site for the proposed Suburban Millard Fillmore Hospital to be located on Maple Rd., Amherst. The impressive architects rendering of the hospital stresses the plea "Give your share for health care."

At the site Monday when the sign was placed were Theodore E. Dungey, chairman of the Organization division in Amherst (left) Robert E. Pope, Director of Development at the hospital and Thomas A. Ceglia, Organization Division chairman for Clarence.

Articles sourced from the March 10th and 17th, 1971 edition of the Clarence Bee



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE TOWN OF CLARENCE**
Founded in 1954

10465 Main Street
P.O. Box 86
Clarence, New York 14031-0086

Phone: (716) 759-8575

www.clarencehistory.org

Facebook Page: Historical Society of the
Town of Clarence

Email: museum@clarencehistory.org

“To Preserve and share the History and Heritage of the Town of Clarence, respecting our past and striving into the future.”

Page 2 The Clarence Bee, March 31, 1971

Clarence

A 50 sq. mi. town with 'government in a closet'

The present Town of Clarence office building not only houses the departmental offices for the town, but serves as a courthouse and public meeting place as well. Already overcrowded, the building cannot keep pace with the needs of the growing town.

