

Paradise Lost - Remembering Painesville, Ohio

From the first settlers in 1800 until the post WWII era, the 1805 village once known as Champion and renamed Painesville in 1832 was the acknowledged 'queen' of the county and a significant commerce hub for the Western Reserve. Early settlers and industry on the Grand River made Painesville the largest community

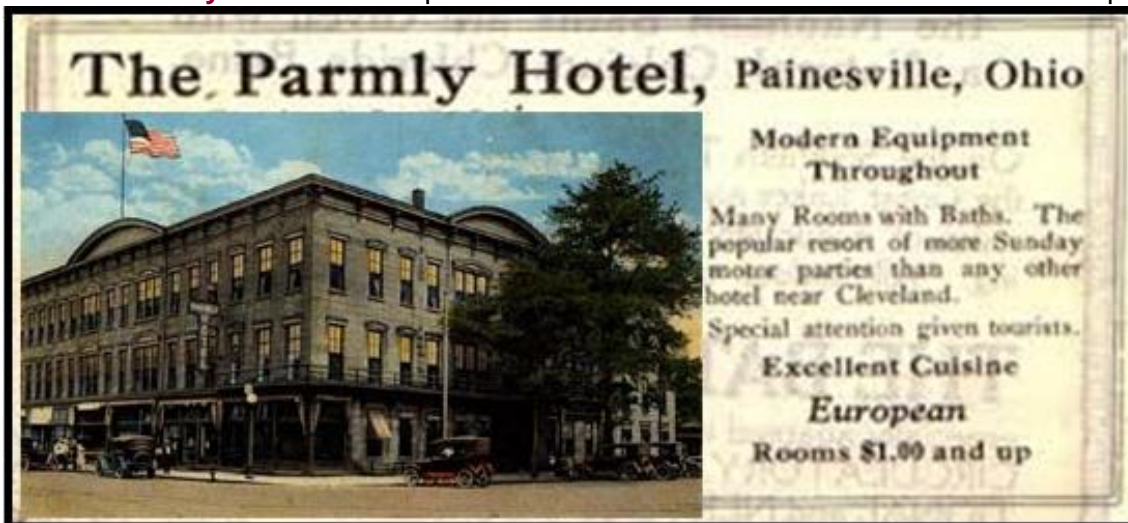


between Cleveland and Erie by the mid 1800s. The Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula railroad line of 1852 only increased the community desirability. Jesse Storrs began his nursery business in 1854 and a burgeoning economy was started in Lake County that lasted for a century. Linden Beach and The Shore Club off

Hardy road brought wealthy summer vacationers to the Painesville area starting in 1870. In 1912 The Diamond Alkali made Painesville the epicenter of the chemical corridor spanning from Toledo to upstate New York.

However, two pivotal events changed Painesville forever. In the 1950-60s, the state approved branch banking. In 1961 the Great Lakes Mall opened. Check cashing and shopping, once Painesville's greatest asset fell as the completion of I-90, Route 44 and the automobile era dawned. By early 1970 'Urban Renewal' was the rage. Monies were allocated to raze dilapidated buildings and erase the homes and storefronts that made a community unique and charming. Painesville history and landmarks became useless under renewal and within a few short years lost forever. Below is just a truncated version of Painesville that you may remember.

The Parmly Hotel opened in December 1861 and was a fixture on the square. Dr. Eleazer Parmly

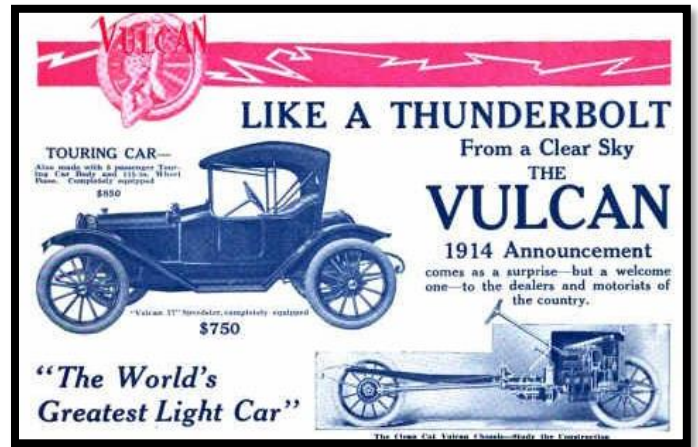


was a dentist of the era. His sons followed him in the family profession and their namesake was a Painesville fixture until its demise in the mid-1970s.

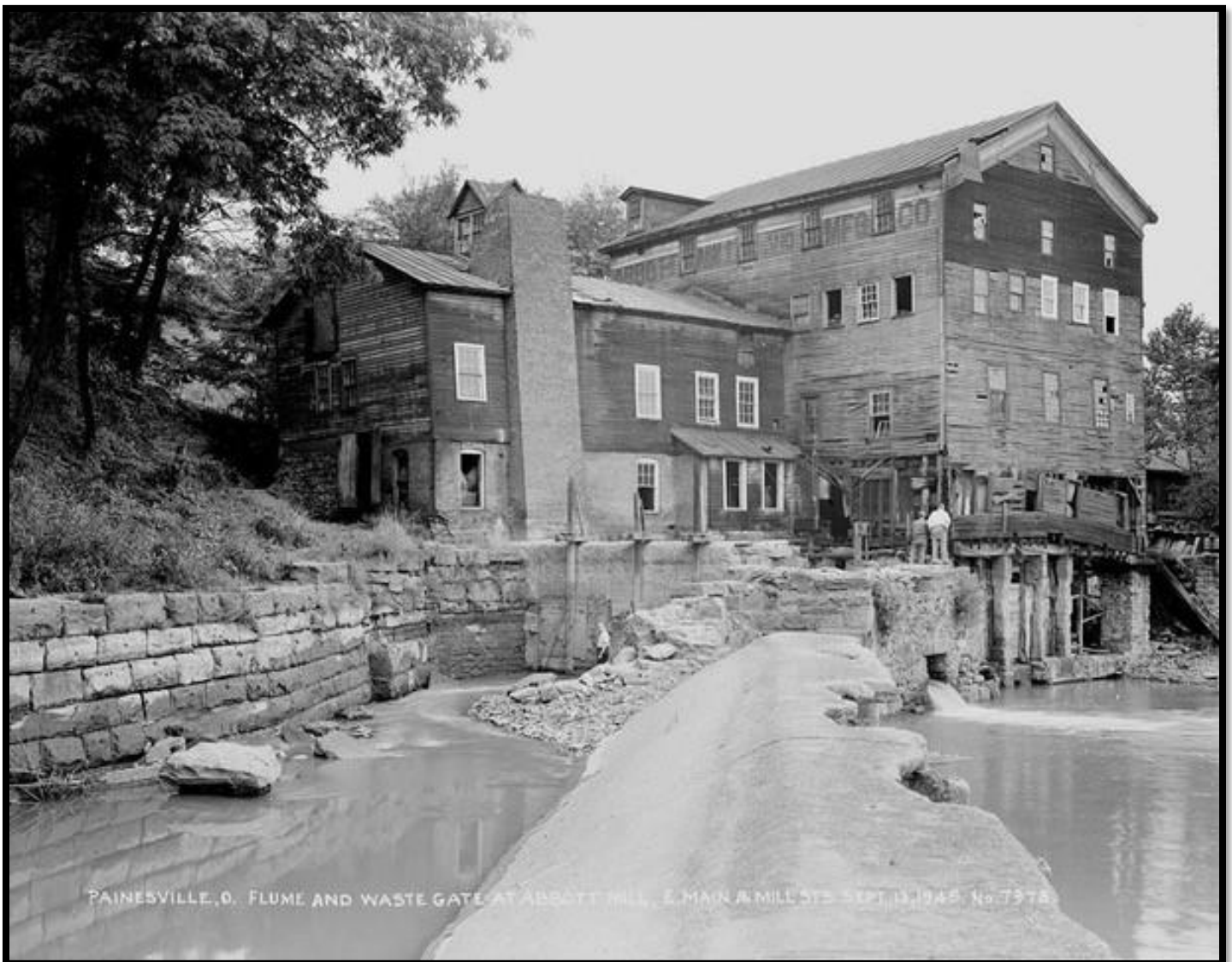
Other notable early Painesville landmarks included Eber Howe's Painesville Telegraph which began in 1822 and lasted through 1976.



* 1913 Vulcan Speedster (only Vulcan in existence) *

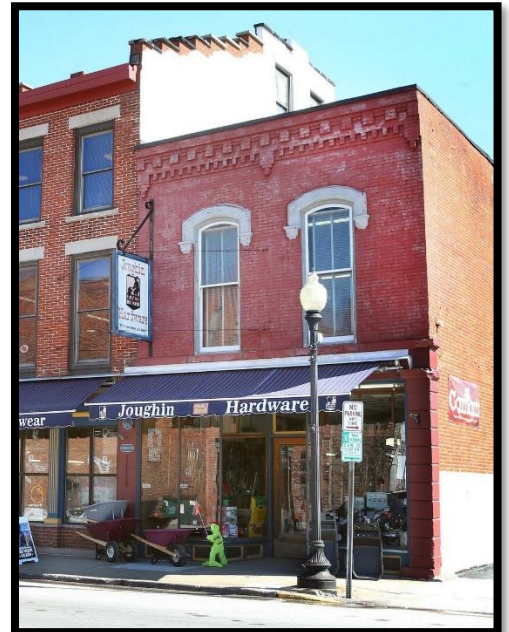


The Vulcan Car Company of 1913-1914,



and the **Abbott Mill on the Grand River**, Coe-Wilkes, Gartman's Bakery, Morley House, Painesville Depot, Painesville National Bank, the Gage House,

and **Joughin Hardware** were well known in the county history archives.



Moving ahead into the 1950s and 60s, many will recall the following businesses and restaurants. These include **Jerry & Bert's Restaurant**, Toyland (a stop for local children's television host Captain Penny aka Ron Penfound), Kresge's, Newberry's 5&10 store, Isaly's Ice Cream on Main Street, Richman Bros, Pfabe's Music,

Hemphill Travel and The Wine Press. Still others will fondly recall Fisher Foods, A&P Market, Brown's Furniture, Standard Drug, Miller Jones Shoes, Bitzer Furniture, Thayer Drug, Heck's Department Store, Sears & Roebuck, Marshall's Rexall Drug, The Skillet Restaurant, Del Farm Food, Brass Rail and **Lake Theater**.



If the Greyhound Bus Station wasn't your mode of transportation, a car could be purchased at Frank Stanton Ford, Bill Smith Oldsmobile or the nearby Dodge dealership.

While lost to time, a 2.92 mile tour can be an adventure trek through Painesville's past history. The walking tour begins at the Veterans Park Gazebo and includes 35 stops. Tour highlights include the 1873 Sessions or Tuscan Home located at 157 Mentor Avenue, the Old Post Office, The 1820 Denton-Powers House at 55 Mentor Avenue, The Historic District of 54 buildings, as well as The Thomas Harvey House. A short version of this trek may also be found on the Painesville website. Enjoy Painesville, another of our county's charming best kept secrets!

Submitted by Dan Maxson Sources: History talks from Sharon Ojanpa Mackey and Tony Torre.
Local Lore by Max, 2010-2016 - Community Media Lab, The News-Herald; Volunteer Trustee, Curator - FHHS/ Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Marine Museum; Volunteer Curator / Docent - Old Stone School, Concord Township