

History parades down Pearl Rd.

Bradley and Lathrop houses are moved

By Sandy Vining

STRONGSVILLE — The main attraction in the city last Friday was a small but unusual parade of two large historic houses inching their way up Pearl Road.

Residents gathered at various spots along the route to get a view of the historic event.

The homes were moved from their original location on Pearl Road, just south of Albion Road, to the Strongsville Historical Society property near the library.

First to be pulled out onto the roadway was the Bradley House, a brick home built in 1832.

ARDATH SANDERS, who has been spearheading the drive to save the houses, used a bottle of grape juice (which resembled champagne) to christen the Lathrop House, a frame house built in 1870.

A group of onlookers cheered as the homes began their one-mile trek south to their new location.

Although the moving company crew had

been working since sunrise, the actual move started about 9 a.m.

Some spectators walked the entire route with the houses, while others came out of businesses and homes to see the sight.

"I was fascinated by the number of people who were along the route," said Sanders, who was one of those who walked the entire distance.

AS THE PROCESSION moved slowly up Pearl Road, crews from the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co., Ohio Bell Telephone Co. and Cablevision cleared their wires to allow the houses through.

City crews moved traffic signals and overhead signs.

Sanders said city and utility company crews, who worked for at least three days preparing for the move, were very well organized and prepared.

"Everything went extremely smoothly," she said.

According to Sanders, Ohio Bell is charging

the Historical Society \$1,600 for the move, and Cablevision made a donation of \$2,000, which included the service plus a cash contribution.

SANDERS ESTIMATED that the cost for CEI should be between \$4,000 and \$5,000, but she does not think the Society will be charged because the group is a tax-free community organization.

When the move started, Strongsville Police closed Pearl Road from Albion to Progress Drive. That section was reopened when the houses passed Progress, and the police closed the section from Progress south to Westwood Drive.

A sizable group of spectators gathered at the library and watched what was considered the most difficult part of the move — turning the houses into the library driveway and squeezing them between the library building and a cluster of trees on the Historical Society property.

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At one point, the truck pulling the first house developed mechanical problems, causing some delay in getting the houses off Pearl Road.

The houses were off the road about noon, and traffic was allowed to use the road while the movers manipulated the houses into position.

By 4 p.m., the houses were in place.

POLICE CHIEF Frank Papp said "For moving two buildings — considering the size, condition and the materials with which they were constructed — everything

went very, very smoothly.

"It was a difficult move in a short period of time and it would have been even shorter if they had not had a problem with one truck," he added.

Sanders said the moving compa-

ny, Kazak Brothers' AA Movers of Euclid, will leave its equipment at the site for 30 days. The houses will be supported by iron girders until the basements and foundations are completed; they then will be lowered into place.



Sun photo by David Liam Kyle

Friday was moving day for these two historic houses. The unusual sight drew a number of onlookers as the houses made their way down Pearl Road.

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