

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Edward Samuel Hirsch – Former Indian Hill Mailman

For decades Edward Samuel Hirsch delivered mail to residents of Indian Hill. During his long career there were many changes in postal delivery. Besides being a letter carrier in the Village, Ed grew up in the area. Upon his retirement in 1965, he compiled his memoirs and distributed a copy to each customer. His memories of the old neighborhood offer a glimpse into early 20th century life “on the hill”.

Ed moved to Indian Hill in 1906 when he was six years old. His family first lived on a 150 acre farm which now is the Camargo Club. After 15 years they moved across the street. Like many others, the Hirschs were farmers. Their chief crop was tomatoes, which they sold to the Snyder Company, a cannery in Miamiville. The whole family pitched in during the season. One year it was so dry that they had to haul water up from the Little Miami River for the tomatoes in order to produce a good crop. Ed earned additional income by picking berries for a farmer who lived on Given Rd. Mr. Dapper paid youths one cent a quart for dewberries or raspberries, or twenty cents a drawer, which was 16 quarts. Ed always worked. He recalled hauling stone and brick for a house being constructed by Clarence Boone on Given Rd. It was an all day trip to get the materials from the kiln in Newtown with a team of horses and some wagons. In winter, Ed and his team hauled stones from Red Bird Hollow Creek, and took them to a local man who had a steam engine and rock crusher. Once the stones were pounded into gravel, they were laid on the local dirt roads to help provide traction.

Ed attended Franklin School on Shawnee Run Rd. through 8th grade. All grades were taught in one room until a second room was added about 1936. Besides being a student, he was the janitor there. Daily he carried in the coal, swept the floor, cleaned blackboards and pounded erasers for \$5 per month. He recalled being paddled by a teacher, and not being able to sit comfortably for a few days.

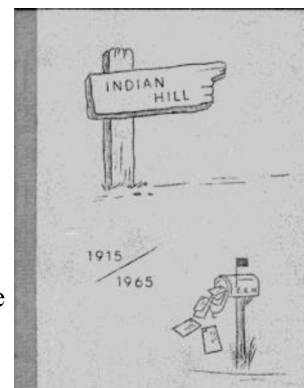
Other boyhood memories included the “Horse Rangers” and the construction of the Swing Line Traction Railroad, which went from Norwood to Hillsboro via Indian Hill. During the Flood of 1913, the water got so high that it washed out the railroad trestle over the Little Miami River at Milford. Another time a windstorm blew down a local barn, pinning the horses inside. Ed and his team helped remove the timbers and freed the animals. Then a neighbor’s barn burnt to the ground because there was no fire department at the time. Back then, ice was delivered to one’s home, and dairy products could be purchased from nearby farms. Another local man had a slaughter house and distributed meat in the neighborhood. This meat-man gave a free wiener to each child as a special treat. Leisure activities included making homemade apple cider, fishing and swimming in lakes in summer and ice skating on them in winter.



Postal delivery in the early 1900s

Ed started as a mail carrier in 1915 when he was 15 years old. He substituted for an Indian Hill postman who was going on vacation. In those days the postman paid for his own substitute. Ed began working for the U.S. Postal Service shortly thereafter. He first worked in town, then was transferred to the Indian Hill area. Using a horse and buggy, he collected the mail sack from a streetcar at Madisonville Station. His route went up and over and down and around Indian Hill. Hirsch had 2 horses, which he rotated because the trip was too grueling for one horse to manage every day in all kinds of weather. In the 1950s the Post Office began furnishing trucks for carriers. They also paid for repairs on the vehicles. Another change was the elimination of box numbers. Instead the street address became the delivery address. At first trucks had left hand drives, whereas today they have right hand drives, which makes delivery easier.

Ed served the community and watched it change. The places he visited daily altered over the years but reminded him of times gone by, former residents, and his youth. After half a century, Ed Hirsch retired on March 30, 1965. His parting words to all his customers were “May your days be filled with pleasing events and good fortune, is my wish for all of you.”



**Ed Hirsch's memoir booklet,
4" x 5"**