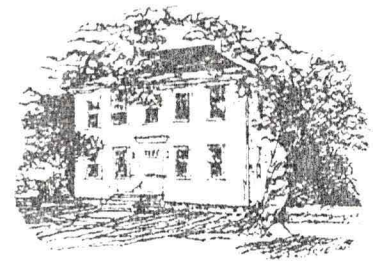


IMAGES

... then and now

From The Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

REMEMBERING L. R. ELTZROTH

Lee Roy Eltzroth (1889-1979), former principal and teacher at Jefferson School, had a long lasting impact on residents of Indian Hill and Camp Dennison between the 1920s and 1950.

Roy was born and raised on a farm near Maineville. When old enough, he lived in a Kentucky relative's home and walked across the bridge to his job in Cincinnati. He was a chef at the Hotel Sinton and then a salesman at Oskamp

Nolting Jewelry. Then he returned to Maineville and worked in a general store/post office. Deciding to become an educator, he attended the National Normal School in Lebanon, one of the region's early teacher colleges, and later took classes at Wilmington College and U.C.

After military service, Roy married Jessie May Brown in 1918; they lived in Carlisle, and Roy taught. After their daughter Miriam was born, they moved to Loveland where Roy taught at Twenty Mile Stand School. Twins Carl and Earl arrived in 1925, and Roy began his long career at the Jefferson School as principal and 7th and 8th grade teacher. His wife, May, taught school locally also.

Jefferson School was a U-shaped building with a center entrance, with grades 1-4 to the west and 5-8 to the east. Downstairs were restrooms, a cafeteria, and dining hall. Four teachers taught 8 grades in 4 classrooms. Roberta Flinn taught 1st and 2nd grade; Ida Brown, then Dorothy Black, taught 3rd and 4th; and Ruth Slagle, 5th and 6th. Mr. Eltzroth supervised the staff, including a music teacher who visited weekly and a janitor/ custodian.



In Mr. Eltzroth's room, the vigorous curriculum covered History, English, Math, Science, Geography, and Civics. Mr. Eltzroth tried to prepare his students for high school better than any other elementary school. Many Jefferson School alumni viewed their freshman year as a repeat of 8th grade, as they had already studied algebra and dissected insects. One former student said "I learned more in those two years of 7th and 8th grade than I learned in any other 2 years of schooling, including U.C." Both Mr. & Mrs. Eltzroth also tutored students who needed extra help after school.

At the outset of each school year, Roy Eltzroth set up guidelines for the year. He managed discipline for all grades. If a student misbehaved, he was sent to the principal for a discussion. Recess privileges were sometimes revoked, and corporal punishment (with a paddle) was a last resort. The principal coached the Jefferson School soccer and baseball teams, which competed against Franklin, Remington, Concord, and Country Day; and he participated in myriad community activities. He was a 4-H leader, dressed and fried chickens for church suppers, and participated in minstrel shows and plays. If a catastrophe occurred (death/family problem) he was the first one called, as he was known for his compassionate nature.

The Eltzroths lived on Drake Road, then Indian Hill Road, then Miami. In the summer Roy supplemented his teacher's salary by peddling both vegetables from his large garden and chickens he raised and dressed. Mrs. Eltzroth and her daughter churned cream from the family cow into butter and cottage cheese. The family peddled in Madisonville, with the boys organizing the products and Mr. Eltzroth and his daughter making sales. In fall, extra hogs were butchered and sold, and in summer Roy worked for other folks making hay or threshing wheat.

In 1944 Mr. Eltzroth and his wife were transferred to Camp Dennison School, where May taught grades 1-4, and Roy, grades 5-8. He retired in 1950, continued to substitute teach and tutor for decades, and spent his last years in Xenia. When he died at 90, he was buried in Milford's Greenlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Eltzroth was proud of his students. Besides teaching an advanced curriculum, he taught character - how to get along with others, how to assist those in need, and how to set and reach goals. One of his favorite quotes: "A thing worth doing is worth doing well" exemplified his life.

Special thanks to Miriam E. Wallace and Carl & Edna Eltzroth for sharing their memories.