

Selected articles from the Lion Magazine May.

May 1938-Celina, Lions staged their "Old Fiddlers Contest" with 40 participants and prizes amounting to \$35. "Due to adverse weather the attendance was light", reports Sec. K.C. Andrew "and we had to make up a small deficit." But far from being discouraged, the Celina Lions next staged a "Millionaires Party." Over 100 Lions were present, and the profit was \$30.

May 1938-Bluffton, Lions devoted efforts to a bird house contest. Three prizes will be given in each class, and will consist of baseball gloves, bats, and Scout knives. Club members will act as the judges, and will consider occupancy and workmanship, and will select the best martin house.

May 1943-Coldwater, the Village of Coldwater provided the Lions with a 17 acre gardening plot.

May 1944-Bluffton Ten Years Old-Bluffton, celebrated its tenth charter anniversary with a Ladies Night, an address by District Governor Ray Evans, and the installation of four new members by International Counsellor F.L. Stineman. Eleven of the charter members received ten- year pins. International Counsellor Guy Brentlinger presented a ten- year perfect attendance pin to I.B. Beeshy. Memorial services were held in honor of Lion Dr. J.S. Steiner, recently deceased. Mrs. Steiner was in the audience.

May 1949-Vanlue, sponsored a community home talent minstrel show in two performances which attracted 600 persons and netted \$102 for the community betterment fund. The cast of 40 was composed of Lion members, the Lions basketball team-dressed as calendar girls- and local friends. Thirty-seven Lions and their wives attended the charter night of the new Arcadia Lions club which they sponsored.

May 1949-Arlington, staged a minstrel show for two performances for funds to buy hospital beds. Presale of tickets and advertising resulted in a gratifying attendance, and gross returns were approximately \$240. From the profit the club expects to purchase additional hospital beds to supplement the four already owned by the club, a wheelchair and some crutches. These will be for use of persons in the community.

May 1950-Montpelier (defunct), made the first payment on its \$2,000 pledge to the fund for a proposed city hospital. The payment was for \$666. In the sale of "Be Thankful You Can See" seals, the club collected a net \$150. The club made donations to the March of Dimes, the Boy Scouts, and the Red Cross.

May 1950-Arlington, as a public serve sponsored a concert by the Bowling Green University a capella choir at the community high school. The choir of approximately 80 voices presented an excellent program which was well received by an audience of 600 persons. A free will offering collected totaled \$131. The club sponsored an athletic banquet for the football and basketball teams and the cheerleaders of the community high school.

May 1952-Cygnnet, Pres. Carl Hudson accepted the charter from Dist. Gov, Gerald C. Smith at this clubs charter night program. Guest came from sponsor, Findlay, Urbana, Forest, Dunkirk, Bloomdale, Haskins, Wayne and North Baltimore.

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May 1952-Van Wert, dressed its members in ladies apparel for a minstrel show that filled the high school auditorium for two performances and turned about 700 persons away. To accommodate the disappointed customers the show was given a third time and again filled the auditorium.

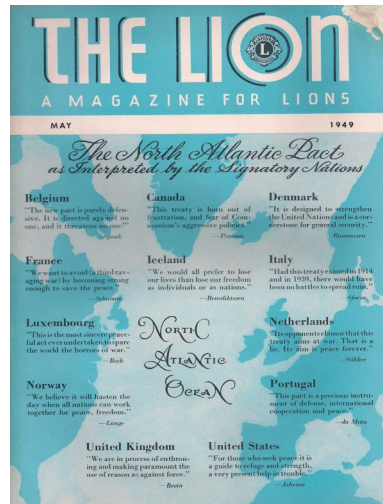
May 1954-Dunkirk, Ohio, sold chrome license plate holders for 1954 Ohio automobile licenses and donated the profits to the community improvement fund which this month bought a smoke mask for use by the community volunteer fire department.

May 1988-Bryan, Edgerton, Edon, Montpelier, Pioneer, and West Unity Lions Clubs contributed funds to purchase a Titmus machine for the Williams county Health Department. The \$1,200 machine will be used to test the vision of children and adults.

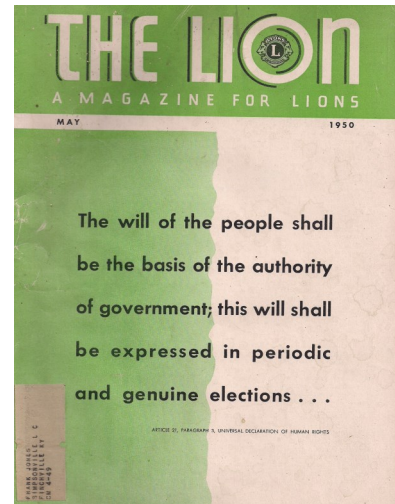
May 1988-The Lions of Maumee have been instrumental in organizing Toledo Blind Athletes Inc. for the USBA, as well as helping the group start such programs as beep baseball.



1944



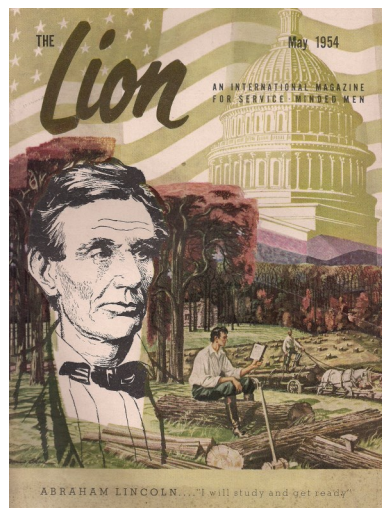
1949



1950



1952



1954



2000

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May 2000-Arlington, Ohio, Lions Club donated \$100 toward the purchase of an audio glucose testing machine for a blind women with diabetes.

Town, Club Mourn Lions Couple

By Jay Copp

The call from the sheriff came on Ash Wednesday, 21 days after Lions Richard and Gladis Russell went missing from their farmhouse in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

"It was the call we were waiting for. We want Gladis back home, too," said Susan Coder, a niece of Richard.

The sheriff told Coder he believed Gladis' remains were found in a cornfield in Georgia. The body of Richard, 84, was found in late February in Tennessee. Police are questioning a Bellefontaine man in their deaths.

The Russells were well-known and well-regarded in Bellefontaine, a town of 13,000. Richard "Dick" Russell raised Hereford cattle and helped build homes as a carpenter.

"They were just wonderful-very caring people," says Tom Chapman, president of the Bellefontaine Lions Club.

Russell was a member of the Bellefontaine Lions since 1970. Gladis officially joined in 1999 but was involved in club activities for many years prior to that. "They were the main people in the club. Almost everyone in the club came in after them," says Chapman.

Asked about Russell's Lions activities, Chapman says, "You name it, he did it. He could probably tell you the constitution and bylaws by heart." Russell, a past district governor, had PDG13E as his license plate number; he was a past district governor of District 13E. The Russells hosted a gala picnic every summer at their farmhouse for Lions from Bellefontaine and elsewhere.

Chapman's wife, Meredith, is a great niece of Dick, and Chapman is the seventh person connected to the Russell family to be a club president. The Chapmans stayed at the Russell farmhouse after the couple went missing to answer the phone and do what they could. "We were get-

ting calls from Florida, California, all over-people who knew them as Lions," he says.

The Russells had not attended the club meeting in January because of an ice storm. Lion Mike Coder stopped at their home after the meeting to drop off medicine. That was the last time he saw them.

"They wanted to know what happened at the meeting. They were very involved in Lions," said Coder, Susan's husband. "The Lions, especially the older ones, are taking this very hard. They're feeling very vulnerable, less secure."

The Russells had no children but were friendly with young people and others in town. One woman in her 60s reminiscing about Dick Russell with Coder recalled how he kidded around with her when she was a teen-age waitress at the local diner. "They were just very friendly people," says Coder.

Police are questioning Samuel Littleton, 37, of Bellefontaine in the Russells' deaths. They went missing the day a 26-year-old woman was found dead in a home the Russells sold to Littleton in 2009, according to news reports. Littleton was charged in her death. His pickup truck was found near the Russells' farm, and his name and cell number were discovered on a pad in the Russell home. The Russells car was missing, and in late February police arrested Littleton in West Virginia after finding the Russells' vehicle.

The Bellefontaine Lions held an impromptu meeting to share information after the Russells went missing. The club is considering a scholarship fund to honor their memory. A Lions' memorial service was also planned. "Dick had told Gladis that's what he wanted," Chapman says.

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May 2015- OHIO BOY WINS ESSAY CONTEST

Jalen Ballard, 12, of Toledo, Ohio, is the grand prize winner of the 2014-15 Lions International Essay Contest for visually impaired youths. Jalen, who will receive \$5,000, will be honored in June in Honolulu at the international convention. The contest's theme was "Peace, Love and Understanding." Jalen's essay includes: "Being blind myself, some people may feel sorry for me and think that I can't do basic things on my own such as getting dressed, cutting my own food, opening water bottles, walking from Point A to Point B and so on. But very few people realize that I am a fully-functional human being, aside from my limited vision If we as a society can become understanding of others' differences, everyone will feel more valued, and this will help create a more peaceful world." The Sylvania Sunrise Lions Club sponsored Jalen. The award was announced in March in New York at Lions Day with the United Nations.

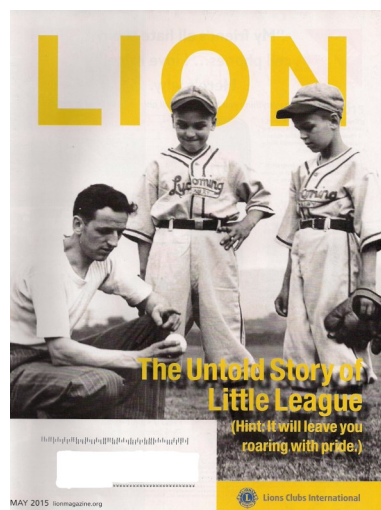


Editors note-The following clubs in the OH1 geographical area are now defunct: Vanlue #1 (1955), Montpelier (1998), Cygnet (1972), Dunkirk (1979), Haskins (1986), Bloomdale (1960), Wayne (1959), Sidney (2008), Maumee (2010), Edgerton (2013) and Edon (2019).

Forest is now known as Riverdale Community as of 2010.



2011



2015

Compiled By PDG Bill Keller