DESTINATION LODI

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

ALDO DINER

During our early years from 1920s up to the late 1950s, with many truck stops and diners, Lodi was a mecca for truckers. When Rt. 224, Rt. 42 and Rt.76 all ran through Lodi, we had at least 11 restaurants, many staying open 24 hours, seven days a week.

I received a call from resident Arleen Huber interested in the history of the barn on Bank Street next to the tracks where Aldo diner stood. I sent out emails asking for any information. Then I stopped down to current owner of property, Michelle Brown.

The Brown Family have lived on this property on Bank Street for years. The house has not changed in shape and size but the front of the home, now torn down was once a diner/truck stop. According to current owner, the barn right next to the railroad tracks housed cattle transported by train to and from Lodi area farms. Then used as a garage.

I did not have a lot of history, so I emailed the troops, Hattie Klinect Zeigler a lifelong resident came to my rescue. I also found some notes from founding father of the Lodi Harrisville Historical Society, Joe Warner.

The diner was located across from Sommer Auto on Bank Street. Howard Oswald was the owner of the building. The originally location of the diner car was closer to the tracks. It was then moved in front of the larger building. Thelma and John Zeigler started the diner known for foot long hotdogs. “Ma” Zeigler ran the gas pumps. Two gas pumps ran parallel to the road. Hattie said she pumped gas between her Jr. /Sr. year of high school. She said Ma would pick up her workers. An icehouse added around 1940. The Zieglers then moved to the corner of Lodi Road and Rt. 421 (site of the Old Cheese house) and started a larger truck stop.

While working at the truck stop, Hattie said she cared for Roy Roger’s horse, Trigger. (Another story, another time…..)

The next owner was Al and Doris Johnson renaming the diner ALDO. Harley Snider ran the gas station for Al. The Johnsons left for Medina starting Big Clown Drive In on Rt. 42 next to a mink farm. Marge McGonell and Grace Fisher took over the diner. The picture is Marge in front of the diner. The diner was a well-known hang out. Larry’s Uncle Glenn met his bride Darleen at the Aldo.

We are moving along with our museum. The back outside stairs/railing and the screen on the front door now replaced. Thank you Lodi Lumber. Thanks to Wendy Warner for painting and staining.

We are organizing three committees and need help. 1. Christmas Décor. 2. Garden 3. Programs and events. Call me 330-635-7294

Lodi Library historical series will be Oct. 18 at 6:30pm. Al Jefferies will present the Underground Railroad.

Our quarterly meeting is Oct. 26 at 7pm at Lodi Library. Author Joann King will talk after the meeting.

Correction on phonograph donated by the Meeks. It was circa 1923.

Donations are kindly accepted. Please sent your donations to Lodi Harrisville Historical Society Box 172 Lodi, Ohio 44254.