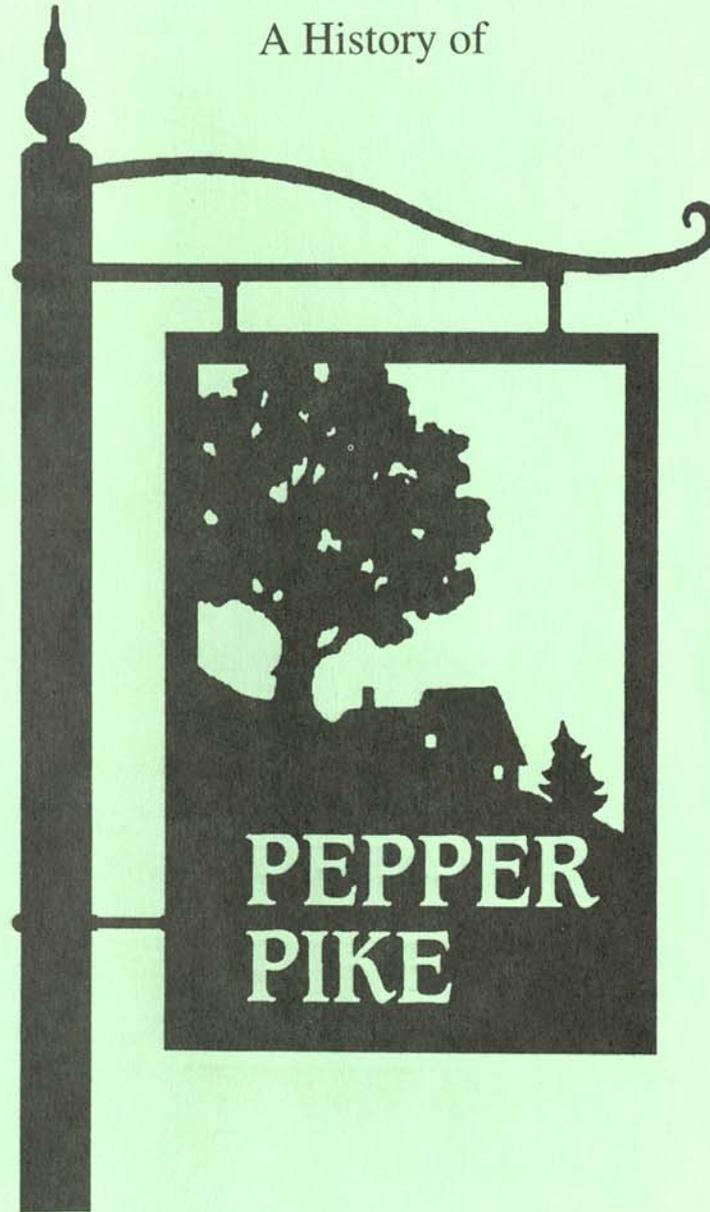


“Fulfilling the Dream”

A History of



On the occasion of its 75th anniversary
1924 - 1999

Foreword

“Fulfilling The Dream” is a history of the City of Pepper Pike. It is a part of the commemoration of Pepper Pike’s 75th Anniversary as an organized, self governing entity - first as a village and then as a city.

Those who first settled in the part of Orange Township that would become Pepper Pike had dreams of a new, rural life in the Western Reserve. A century later, the Van Sweringens envisioned an upscale residential community and acted to initiate this change. Others who followed added new visions of services and amenities. Today the community stands as the legacy of the “Vans” vision, as well as the fulfillment of many other dreams.

Today, Pepper Pike covers approximately seven square miles. The city is governed by a mayor and seven council members, all elected by the voters. Within its boundaries are five churches and synagogues, three private clubs, a college, the Orange Schools, the Orange Library, two non-profit agencies serving the needs of young people, a Senior Center, a shopping plaza, plus office and commercial buildings. The city has approximately 6300 residents dwelling in some 2200 residences. Clearly, many dreams have been realized in creating such a community.

We are grateful for the help of representatives of many entities located in Pepper Pike for making historical records available to help compile this document. Many interesting details of this history have necessarily been set aside in order that this booklet be kept to a reasonable size. The Orange Library and the Pepper Pike City Hall contain a number of documents that offer more detail for those who may be interested, as do the archives of area newspapers and the Western Reserve Historical Society.

In the Beginning

Long, long ago this area was underwater, and was referred to by geologists as the Ohio Bay. Rivers flowed into the Ohio Bay southward from present day Ontario, Canada, and westward from present day New York State and Pennsylvania. About 28 million years ago, earth movements raised the land above sea level, and the Appalachian Mountains were formed. Our area is located in the western foothills of those mountains.

About five million years ago, the climate grew colder as two huge ice glaciers descended southward as far as Akron. The unusual directional flow of the Cuyahoga and Chagrin Rivers resulted from the glacial age. The area’s first inhabitants were mammoth hunters, who followed the receding glaciers to hunt caribou and mammoths. Several thousands of years later, the people known as Mound Builders called the area south of here home. The local Indians were the Erie, who were related to the Iroquois. They, along with the Huron tribe, considered our area a neutral hunting ground, with no settlements.

The first European in the general locale in the 1600’s was the French explorer, Sir Robert LaSalle. However, it was only after the War of 1812 that colonists drifted westward in search of a new life. The Western Reserve Territory became part of Connecticut, as a result of a land deed signed by King Charles II in 1662. That state sold three million acres in 1795 to a group called the Connecticut Land Company. Surveying expeditions were formed under Moses Cleaveland, and the surveying was finished in 1797.

The original Orange Township included Pepper Pike, Hunting Valley, Orange, Woodmere and Moreland Hills, as well as parts of Chagrin Falls and Solon. The township was first settled in 1815. It was not until June 20, 1820, however, that the township was named and a government was formed. Families settled in small clusters or settlements. Several settlements were in what is now Pepper Pike.

Orange Center was at the intersection of SOM Center and Pinetree Roads. As early as 1820, stagecoaches stopped there. Orange Center boasted a general store, a post office, a doctor, a church, a cemetery, a school, a blacksmith shop, a cheese factory, a hearse house and a dance hall (on the second floor of the general store). It was also the township seat and center of voting and government. The post office was called

Barry, Ohio. The Methodist Episcopal Church was on one corner. Mrs. Whitlam, who owned the cheese factory, is buried in the little cemetery, the only remaining element of that once thriving settlement.

British Circle was at the current Lander Circle. The area, settled in the 1830's, was formed by the intersection of Harper and Kinsman Roads (later renamed Lander and Chagrin). The Abell Farm was on the north-west quadrant. The Raw and Maria Jackson family arrived in 1835 from Yorkshire, England and established their homestead on the northeast quadrant. Their family cemetery fronts Landerwood Plaza. The Bible Christian Church (an offshoot of John Wesley's Methodist Church) was built in 1848 on the south side of Pinetree Road. The small church cemetery remains there today.

Orange Hill Settlement was at Fairmount Boulevard and SOM Center Road. (Fairmount was then called North Woodland.) These settlers picked the highest part of Orange for their farms and were referred to as the "Hill Folks". Thomas King moved his family from Vermont and established his farm in 1818 on land that is now fairways of the Pepper Pike Club. As early as 1830, Methodist circuit riders preached in the families' homes, until a church was erected on the southwest corner of the Fairmount and SOM intersection. A school was located next to the church and a cemetery was on the southeast corner. This settlement spread westward in the latter 1800's. From 1875 to the early 1900's, the Orange Post Office was located next to Crary's General Store where Fairmount and Lander met at the current circle. A school was on Fairmount, west of Lander Road.

In the early 1900's, events occurred that would soon change the face of Orange Township. It was at this time that the Van Sweringen brothers, Oris Paxton and Mantis James, came on the scene.

The Vision of the "Vans"

In 1910, the "Vans", who would build the Terminal Tower and develop Shaker Heights in the 1920's, purchased four farms (660 acres) east of SOM Center Road and between Shaker Boulevard and South Woodland Road. This became known as Daisy Hill. Their vision was to extend their land development projects east of Green Road and through the Chagrin Valley, with four major highways running through and the land divided into residential parcels of from five to ten acres.

Around 1921, the Vans began to buy up land at prices too good to refuse. They laid out three traffic circles at Fairmount and Lander, Brainard and Shaker, and Chagrin and Lander, and commenced paving roads. The replotting of land in Orange Township precipitated many changes. As the population increased, the people felt the need to have more representation in local government. Beginning in 1924, the Orange Township split into five separate villages.

Interesting enough, as the township was being divided, the Vans consolidated local school districts into the present one central district - the Orange School District. Instead of leaving the school and center of town at Orange Center, as originally intended, the Vans decided that such a location would devalue their property at Daisy Hill, and relocated the schools to their present location on Chagrin Boulevard.

The Vans set a precedent in community planning which has been strongly upheld by the community's modern city government and a civic-minded citizenry. Early standards were set for styles of architecture, and approval of designs was required before construction could proceed.

A Village Becomes a City

On September 6, 1924, a petition signed by 51 residents of the northern part of Orange Township was filed with township trustees. It asked that their section be permitted to incorporate as Pepper Pike Village. Early state legislation permitted incorporation of villages with a minimum of 30 inhabitants. A September 19th election followed. On October 1, 1924, Orange Township Trustees ordered the incorporation of Pepper Pike Village. (At that time the Village did not include the land on which

the Orange Schools, Beech Brook, the Orange Library, New Directions, the Orange Community Art Center and Garfield Church now reside. That property was acquired by annexation from Orange Village in 1931.)

Growth was slow, as the community evolved from a rural base to a residential village. However, in 1929, municipally financed garbage and rubbish collections began. Growth increased following World War II. The City Hall was built in 1955 and the volunteer fire department was reorganized to include a resident, full-time fireman. The 1960 census gave the village a population of 3,217. It was not until 1970 that the population exceeded 5000, which meant a change to city status.

The current police force numbers 17 uniformed officers, plus civilian dispatchers and other personnel. The Fire Department has 14 full-time and 22 part-time firefighters. Pepper Pike has its own emergency medical service and transports patients with life-threatening illnesses or severe medical trauma to the nearest appropriate medical facility. The Service Department collects not only garbage and rubbish at the residents' garages, but also picks up recyclable glass, cans and plastic.

Since its incorporation, Pepper Pike has had eight mayors, with four serving long terms. James B. Lewis was mayor from 1926 - 31 and from 1934 - 57. Edgar G. Parks served from 1960 - 75. He was followed by John T. Avery, who was in office from 1976 - 91. The current mayor, Bruce H. Akers, took office in 1992, after serving 16 years as a council member. Seven council members, all elected at large, meet twice each month at City Hall.

Local Commercial Development

The village's post World War II population growth reflected the rapid expansion of home building. Between 1950 and 1960, about 50 homes per year were built, thus turning a small, quiet village into a fast growing community. The increasing demand for local shopping prompted the opening of Landerwood Plaza in 1960. The original plaza was less than half the size it is today, but Pepper Pike residents greeted it with enthusiasm and entered an era of convenience shopping.

The vision of a national Interstate Highway System became a reality in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Completion of I-271 in the early 1960's

added to Pepper Pike's allure. Highway interchanges at Cedar Road and Chagrin Boulevard resulted in development of commercial activity along the two thoroughfares.

Extensive retail, hotel, restaurant, medical, entertainment, recreation, financial and general office services were built in municipalities neighboring Pepper Pike. Demand for office space in Pepper Pike was satisfied along the Chagrin business corridor. With the addition of this commercial development plus other premium services, Pepper Pike became a very special place in which to live.

Evolution of Our Schools

The 1860's saw eight little, district schools in the Orange Township, five in what would become Pepper Pike. From 1820 to the 1890's, the schools provided education up to eighth grade. School year terms were set to allow children to help with crop planting and harvesting. Parents paid \$1-\$3 tuition per term. Attendance was not compulsory. To continue past eighth grade, students traveled to Chagrin Falls or Cleveland.

By the 1860's there was a Township Board of Education. A school district superintendent was responsible for school operations and standardization of examinations. It was not until the 1890's that Orange Township schools were fully tax supported and the academic year became September through June. In 1899, the school board began seeking a location for a high school.

As a result of the "Vans" land development in Pepper Pike and Hunting Valley, a new 12-grade, consolidated school opened on January 14, 1924 at the present Orange High School site and the district schools closed. Also in 1924, Dr. Terry Wickham became superintendent of schools. In 1927, the first senior class (12 students) graduated from Orange High School. Total enrollment was then 400 students.

The ten-acre site of the new, consolidated school was donated by the Stoneman Family. During the next 40 years, the school board purchased surrounding land, and the campus now comprises 176 wooded acres.

Since World War II, there has been strong community vision and support to create and maintain the excellence of Orange Schools. A succession

of School Boards, Superintendents, teachers and parents have worked cooperatively to ensure the ongoing quality of the educational opportunities.

In 1956, Pepper Pike Elementary School was completed. It was the first separate, elementary unit on campus. In 1958, Moreland Hills Elementary School was completed. In 1965, Brady Middle School opened. The High School underwent many expansions and remodelings, including a major rebuilding in 1973. In 1999, major replacement and upgrading of facilities is underway.

Today, the campus is a hub for community education and recreation. The Orange Community Schools and Recreation Department, under Orange School Board auspices, provides year-round enrichment and recreation for children and adults. The Senior Center graces the north side of the campus, across the street from the High School.

The Orange Community Senior Center

The Orange Senior Adult Program and Center is one of 12 programs of the Orange Community Education and Recreation Department, which operates under the auspices and authority of the Orange School District and Board of Education.

This department began offering senior adult classes and activities to residents in 1978. In 1984, the department took over the Pepper Pike School building and formed the Orange Community Center. In 1989, the Senior Adult program moved to Brady Middle School, and in 1991 moved into an existing building on the north campus.

A five-year fundraising effort, spearheaded by the Lander Circle Kiwanis Club, resulted in private and governmental donations and grants to underwrite expansion of the Senior Center. The expanded center opened in June 1997. Further renovation, scheduled for the summer of 1999, will result in a fully functional, multi-use facility to accommodate a growing senior adult population.

The Orange Community Library

The Orange Library began its operations in January 1931 in the third-floor library-study hall of the Orange High School. It came about through the vision of Mrs. James (Polly) Lewis, a Pepper Pike Council member and wife of the Mayor. The Lewises, with the support of the Orange Board of Education, had convinced the Cuyahoga County Library to furnish evening and summer service to the public, thus putting an existing facility to further use.

Polly Lewis served for 17 years as librarian and also offered programs of general interest, that in those pre-television days were very popular. In 1949, a new high school wing enabled library space to move to the first floor. In the next six years, circulation more than doubled. In addition to adult book reviews, children's story hours were held.

In October 1957, growing student needs forced the community library to move to a smaller area. Evening programs were dropped and the school's collection was no longer available. September 1960 saw the "Friends of the Library" group organized. It continues to promote the development and welfare of the Orange Library by making the library's needs and resources more widely known to the community.

On November 28, 1962, a group of citizens met to form a Library Development Committee. The Development Committee and "Friends of the Library" launched a successful campaign in all five villages to collect money to purchase the current library site. A year later, the Orange Board of Education (the only political subdivision that covered the five villages) agreed to put a one mill levy on the ballot to finance construction of a new library building. The levy passed with a 69% majority.

Today, the Orange Library continues to meet the needs of local residents. One of 27 Cuyahoga County Public Library System branches, it is open from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., four days a week, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Sundays during the school year. The library not only provides books and magazines, but also recorded materials (video and audio discs and cassettes), internet access and electronic databases for public use in the library or at home.



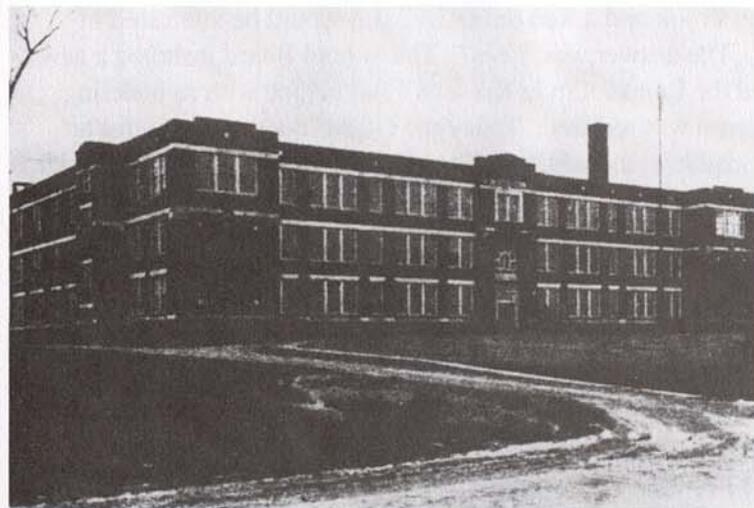
*Raw and Maria Jackson-
who came from Yorkshire,
England in 1835 and settled
at the NE quadrant of
Lander and Chagrin*



*The Methodist
Protestant Church at
the NW corner of
Lander and Chagrin
in 1915. In later
years, Pepper Pike
Village Council met
in the basement. It
would be renamed
Garfield Memorial
Church. The stained
glass windows in
honor of the
Stoneman Family are
preserved today in
the Garfield Memo-
rial Church Chapel*



The Barry Post Office and Grocery Store at Orange Center, 1888.



*The Orange Consolidated School in 1924 on the site of the
current High School.*

The Orange Community Arts Council

The Orange Community Arts Council (OCAC) was incorporated in 1968. Its purpose is to operate regularly scheduled classes and provide educational programs to encourage and stimulate the Fine Arts in the Orange School area.

At first the OCAC was primarily a summer arts program for school aged children and adults. It had drama groups involving both students and adults. It also offered classes in creative dance and drama, ceramics, sculpture, music theory and many other subjects. The OCAC tapped community resources in hiring teachers and directors for the various programs. Classes and programs used Orange School facilities, as well as those of Garfield Memorial Church, the Church of the Western Reserve and the Orange Library.

In 1973, the Orange Recreation Department was organized and the two organizations cooperated to offer Fine Arts classes to the public. This expanded program plus increased membership led the OCAC to seek a home of its own.

In 1979, the Orange Board of Education bought an 83-year old house from Beech Brook and asked the OCAC if it would be interested in moving in. The answer was, "Yes." The School Board installed a new furnace and the Lander Circle Kiwanis Club helped with remodeling. Another dream was realized. Today the OCAC continues to offer art classes for children and adults and sponsors the Community Art Show, plus the Greater Cleveland Art Series.

Ursuline College

Ursuline College's roots go back to November 25, 1535 and the founding of the Order of Saint Ursula in Brescia, Italy, with a commitment to teaching young girls and women. In 1624, the Ursuline Convent and School was founded at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. On August 8, 1850 the Ursulines of Boulogne-sur-Mer arrived in Cleveland at the invitation of the first Bishop of Cleveland, Amadeus Rappe.

The Ursulines moved quickly and established a girls' school and academy in 1850. On November 17, 1871 Ursuline College was founded and

is the oldest chartered women's college in Ohio. Classes were initially held at the Motherhouse at 46 Euclid Avenue. In 1922, the College relocated adjacent to Case Western Reserve University, and in 1926 moved to a new site on Overlook Road in Cleveland Heights.

The College's leadership was visionary and foresaw future growth. In 1927, 50 acres were purchased in Pepper Pike. In 1949, another 62.5 acres with Lander Road frontage was added. In 1966, Ursuline College moved to its Pepper Pike campus.

Today the College serves approximately 1300 full-time students and confers both undergraduate and graduate degrees. In addition to a broad curriculum offered to traditional age students, the College also offers extensive programs for non-traditional age students seeking degrees in higher education.

The educational and cultural resources of Ursuline have served many residents over the past 33 years. Pepper Pike residents are in most years' graduating classes. Others use Ursuline's resources by enrolling in non-degree classes, or pursue life-long learning in specialized classes.. The College boasts one of Cleveland's finest libraries. Ursuline's presence adds another dimension to Pepper Pike's quality of life.

Local Houses of Worship

Garfield Memorial United Methodist Church dates back to the area's pioneer days. In 1839, a group of settlers formed the Bible Christian Church, out of a background of John Wesley's Methodist Church. The group met in members' homes until 1848, when a small wooden church was built on the south side of Pinetree Road just east of Lander Circle. That church's cemetery is there today.

In 1866, a larger building was constructed on what today is the northern half of Lander Circle. The church became the Orange Methodist Protestant Church in 1884, and a new, larger structure was built in 1915. In 1929, the name was changed to Garfield Memorial Church in honor of the assassinated President, who was born nearby. However, the location stood in the path of the "Vans" development plans, and in 1930 the church was moved to its present location and remodeled. The architect for the remodeling was Abram Garfield, a son of the slain President.

The current church complex is the result of post World War II growth and construction, with the most recent change being the addition of a Family Life Center, Chapel and administrative offices in 1991. Garfield Memorial Church has long been community oriented, and its facilities host the activities of many community organizations, including the Lander Circle Kiwanis Club and Meals on Wheels.

The Church of The Western Reserve is the outgrowth of activity in the mid 1950's by the Cleveland Presbytery to have a church in the Pepper Pike area. The Church was organized in 1962 as a new congregation, although about one quarter of its members came from a dissolved University Heights congregation.

The congregation met in the Orange High School auditorium until March 6, 1966, when it moved into a new building and sanctuary on the current Fairmount Boulevard and Lander Road site. The construction was financed in part by the liquidated assets of the University Heights church. The architect was Gaede and Serne of Cleveland, who designed subsequent additions as well..

A major development followed on March 23, 1997, when a new sanctuary, administrative wing, music and educational space were dedicated.

Three synagogues lie within Pepper Pike - *B'nai Jeshurun*, *The Park Synagogue* and *Beth Aynu*.

B'nai Jeshurun, whose Hebrew words translate to "Brothers of Justice", is located at the intersection of Fairmount Boulevard and Brainard Road. Previously located in Cleveland Heights, when it was commonly referred to as The Temple on the Heights, it has a long and proud history as one of Cleveland's outstanding, conservative Jewish synagogues. The building was designed by leading architect Don Hisaka and was dedicated in May 1980. As the congregation has grown, additional classrooms have been constructed, the most recent of which was completed in 1999.

The Park Synagogue is located on the north side of Shaker Boulevard at Brainard Circle. Designed by world famous architect, Edward Durrell Stone, it was built in 1962 for the Brith Emeth (True Covenant) congregation. Commonly known as "The Synagogue in the Round", its sanctuary is circled by administrative offices and classrooms. In 1988 Brith

Emeth was acquired by The Park Synagogue, whose main sanctuary is located in Cleveland Heights. The Park Synagogue with its 1800 members is the largest conservative congregation in Greater Cleveland and fifth largest in the United States.

Beth Aynu ("Our Home") is located on the north side of Shaker Boulevard, across from Pepper Pike City Hall. The youngest and smallest of the three synagogues, it was founded 25 years ago by ten families and has grown to 475 families. The structure was built in 1951 and occupied by Trinity Congregational Church, until it was acquired in 1983 by Beth Aynu. In 1977, a school room addition fronting on Gates Mills Boulevard was completed.

Private Clubs

Roots of *The Country Club* go back to 1889, when it was formed to be a social club in the country - a place for parties and picnics located in what is now Bratenahl. The decision to become a golf club was made in March of 1895, after club president Samuel Mather had been introduced to golf on a New York business trip. A nine hole course was opened on July 13, 1895. About 1900, a club member, Coburn Haskell, invented the rubber core, rubber wound golf ball - truly a historical event. In 1906, a clubhouse fire resulted in a new clubhouse designed by Abram Garfield. The club expanded to 18 holes in 1914.

In 1928, the Van Sweringen interests offered the club an opportunity to move to Pepper Pike, making 200 acres of land available and advancing the funds to construct a new clubhouse and golf course. The offer was accepted and ground was broken in 1929, with the clubhouse designed by Philip Small, a club member and prominent architect.

The club opened its new facilities on August 10, 1930, and was able to survive a period of depression-related financial turmoil. The years since World War II have seen continuing additions and upgrading of the club's facilities and amenities, with many Pepper Pike residents among its membership.

The Pepper Pike Club had its genesis prior to 1914, when a number of golf enthusiasts, who belonged to the Mayfield Country Club, discussed the feasibility of organizing a new golf club. The first steps toward

creation of the new club were taken in 1914, when options were acquired to purchase all the land, except 40.99 acres, that lay between Lander and SOM Center Roads and Fairmount and Shaker Boulevards.

World War I took place, and nothing was done to exercise the options until 1920, when a syndicate of 52 members purchased the 700 plus acres of land. Not long after the purchase, about 500 acres were sold to the Van Sweringen Company. The land sold to the "Vans" provided funds to construct the *Pepper Pike Club*. The firm of Toomey and Flynn was retained as architects and builders of the golf course and clubhouse. Alva Bradley, one time Cleveland Indians owner, served as chairman of the golf course committee. Leonard C. Hanna of Hanna Mining led the clubhouse committee.

The Club celebrated its formal opening on July 6, 1925. Since then, it has retained its early format as a golf club, with some additions to the clubhouse and other structures.

The Cleveland Racquet Club dates to the spring of 1966, when the vision of a first class, year-round racquet center in the Cleveland area was proposed by Willis M. McFarlane to a group of his close friends. A Board of Trustees was formed. Ultimately, an attractive, 26-acre site was found on Chagrin Boulevard in Pepper Pike.

Groundbreaking took place on May 16, 1969, and the *Cleveland Racquet Club* opened its doors to 353 members in April 1970. Today, the Club has 10 indoor tennis courts, 12 outdoor "Har Tru" courts, three outdoor hard courts, paddle tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a fitness center, three international class squash courts and dining facilities. Many Pepper Pike residents are members.

Human Service Institutions

Beech Brook began as a shelter for children who were orphaned by a severe cholera epidemic in 1848. In 1853, the organization was incorporated as the Cleveland Orphan Asylum. In 1875, the name was changed to the Cleveland Protestant Orphan Asylum. By 1878 the orphanage's needs continued to grow. Leonard Case donated land and Jephtha Wade provided funding for a new building at 5000 St. Clair Avenue. Hundreds of children were cared for during the next 45 years.

By the end of World War I more space was needed. Mr. and Mrs. Wade wanted the children to live in the country. In 1917, they purchased the 95-acre Beech Brook farm on Lander Road south of Chagrin Boulevard, in what is now Pepper Pike, and presented it to the orphanage, along with funds for an administration building. For the next eight years the land was used as a summer home and farm for the children, while trustees and managers planned the new facility. The campus was completed in 1925.

Many children coming to the home had severe emotional problems, and counseling and group therapy began as early as 1930. By 1960 *Beech Brook* was a treatment center for severely disturbed children with emphasis on family therapy. Services now include residential and day care treatment for five to twelve year olds. The Jessica Roesler Gund School, located on the campus, is part of the Orange School system.

New Directions is an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt agency that helps Greater Cleveland adolescents overcome the disabling consequences of alcohol and drug abuse and achieve new directions for their lives. It came into being in two old farmhouses in Glenwillow in 1981, as a "demonstration program" by the Ohio Department of Health. It was the first and only inpatient chemical dependency program in the Cleveland area for several years and continues as the only agency of its kind in the area.

In 1989, *New Directions* moved from Glenwillow to its present Pepper Pike location on Chagrin Boulevard.

Local Service Organizations

Pepper Pike is blessed to have a number of service organizations which enrich the lives of local residents.

The *Lander Circle Kiwanis Club* was established in 1953. It meets each Monday evening at Garfield Memorial Church and over the years has played an important role in many community improvements. Their Annual Rummage Sale (now 42 years old) raises large sums of money that are used to support and finance many community projects.

The Pepper Pike Civic League is a non-profit organization that was

incorporated in 1957. Its purpose is to promote good government, supply information pertinent to City affairs and encourage citizens to take an interest in the activities of government. It annually publishes and distributes a comprehensive Pepper Pike Directory. In addition, the League sponsors a Town Hall meeting in the Spring and a Candidates and Issues Meeting in the Fall.

The Orange Area Service Committee was established in 1962, as a non-profit, voluntary organization. The Committee assists, on a short-term basis, families who are in need of food, clothing or shelter. It relies on donations from the community and coordinates resources available from local, civic, religious and school groups.

A *Meals on Wheels* service was established locally in 1979 to assist residents who were unable to prepare their own meals. The food is prepared at a local hospital and picked up and packaged at Garfield Church by volunteers. Volunteers then deliver these meals each weekday to those in need of this service.

A Final Word

The work of compiling this brief history of Pepper Pike has made it abundantly clear that many dreams and visions have come to fruition within the City's boundaries during its 75 years of existence. The human mind and spirit, being what they are, Pepper Pike's residents will undoubtedly continue to dream and act to fulfill these dreams in the coming millenium and beyond to add to the quality of life in Pepper Pike.

Why Pepper Pike ?

The origin of the name, "Pepper Pike", is uncertain. Sources suggest that the "Vans" had something else in mind - "Shaker Heights Country Estates", or "Rolling Hills".

It appears that "Pepper Pike" may have had a relationship to North Moreland Road. One story had it that a Pepper family owned much property adjacent to that road, but available records don't support this. Another report suggested that the settlement at British (Lander) Circle referred to North Moreland Road as Pepper Pike.

Still another theory relates to the possibility that at one time trees along North Moreland were referred to as "Pepper Trees" for some reason, resulting in it becoming known as the Pepper Pike.

For whatever reason(s), the village was incorporated as Pepper Pike and the name stuck!

Pepper Pike 75th Anniversary History Committee

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