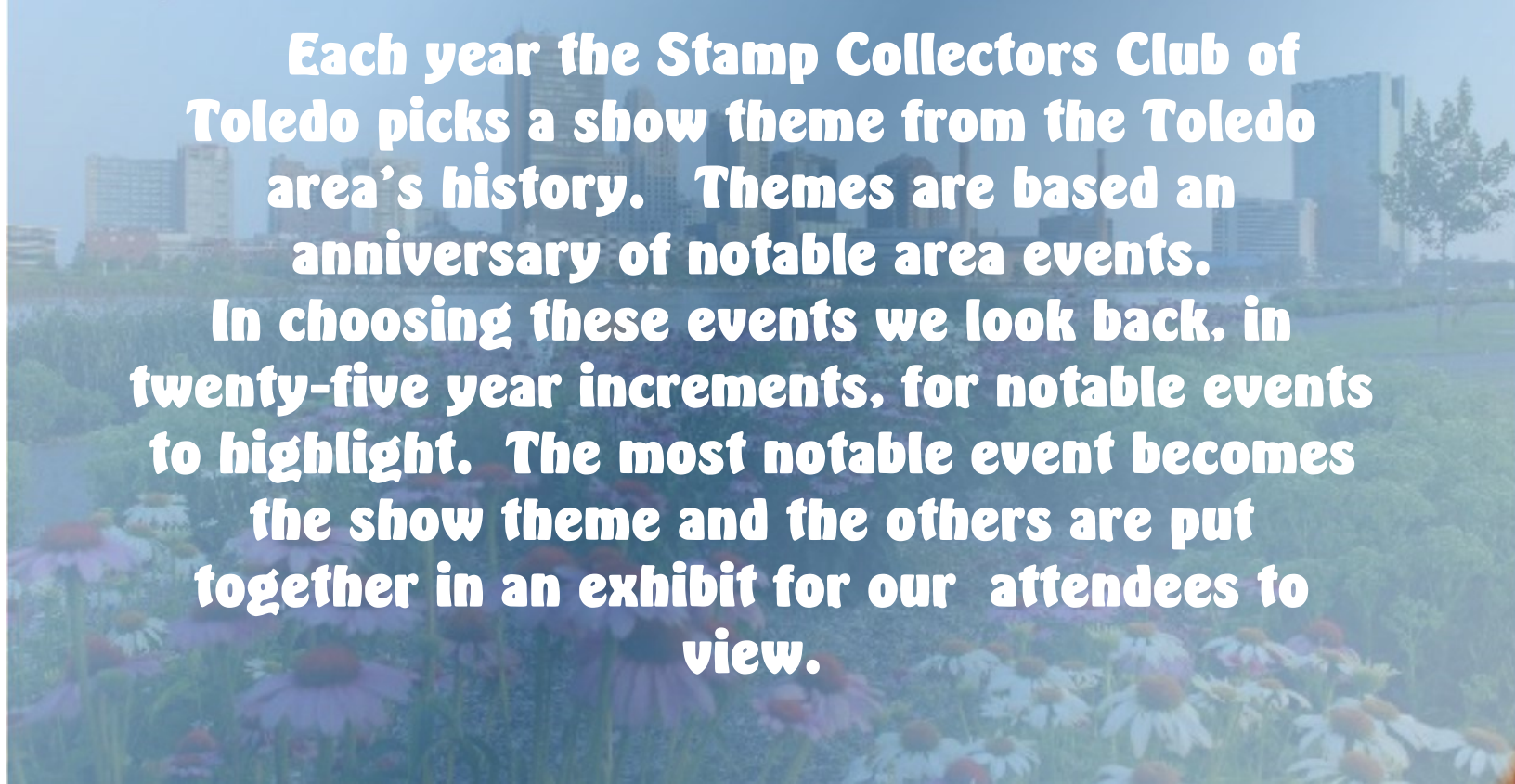




It Happened in Toledo

Each year the Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo picks a show theme from the Toledo area's history. Themes are based on an anniversary of notable area events.

In choosing these events we look back, in twenty-five year increments, for notable events to highlight. The most notable event becomes the show theme and the others are put together in an exhibit for our attendees to view.



1798

John Berdan

Berdan had been born in New York City on December 16, 1798. He married Pamela Freese and the couple moved to Brunswick, Ohio in Medina County. In Brunswick, Berdan held the office of the justice of the peace while working as a merchant.

The Berdan's settled in Toledo in September of 1835 where John formed a partnership with B.H. Peckham and Company, a commission and forwarding business located at the bottom of Lagrange Street. As local leaders in the business, most of the steamboats on the Maumee River stopped at the company's dock. Berdan's reputation as an astute business person gained him a reputation as a fair and honest individual. His popularity helped to assure his election as mayor. John I won the election to be the first mayor of the village of Toledo by one vote. Berdan's governing strategies earned him reelection in 1838 for a 2nd term. He didn't fulfill the year. Rather, he was appointed to the office of associate judge of the Court of Common Pleas, a title he held until his death on October 11, 1841.

Berdan had two children, Peter F., a prominent man in the wholesale trade, and Rachel, wife of Valentine H. Ketcham.

continued the reputable Berdan name throughout the Toledo community. The Berdan name

lived on as part of the proud legacy of Toledo's boom days. A street name helps to remind local residents of the glorious past. Once a main thoroughfare in the outer region of Toledo's suburbs, Berdan Avenue lies in the center of what is now a working class area of west Toledo.

The Berdan Building, built in 1901, is located in Toledo's vibrant and revitalized Warehouse District. Today the old grocery warehouse offers unique and modern loft living in a re-purposed historic downtown building. The building stands across from the entrance to Fifth Third Field.

Living here puts you close to the Huntington

Center, Seagate Center and a wealth of dining and entertainment options. Public transportation is easily accessible as is Interstate 75. The Berdan is a controlled access community with private parking and 115 combined studio and one and two bedroom apartments which feature dramatic exposed brick walls and duct work along with soaring 14 foot ceilings. Large windows offer superb views of Toledo.



1848

First Telegraph In Toledo

The Toledo *Blade* of February 14, 1848, announced the opening at Toledo of an office of the Lake Erie Telegraph Line, in the following enthusiastic terms:

The magic wires are here, and we are in connection. We shall henceforth be able to furnish our readers with the latest news--the daily condition of the Eastern markets, and all that kind of practical intelligence, which is now largely sought after by the business world. The expense incident to the employment of the Telegraph, we can illily bear, but a conviction that our enterprise will not go unrewarded, induces us to hazard the experiment of a trial.

The Telegraph column of the paper was headed as follows:

THE FIRST STREAK !

BY TELEGRAPH FROM BUFFALO.

For the Toledo Blade.

TELEGRAPH OFFICE, Toledo, February 14, 1848, 9 P M --The Telegraph has just commenced operations at the Toledo Office, and through the politeness of Mr. H. B. Ely, Manager, we are enabled to lay before our readers the Buffalo and New York markets in advance of all other means of communication.

Following the above were the Market reports of Buffalo, dated February 12, 3 P. M., and the New York report, dated February 11, 7 P. M

The first item of current " News by Telegraph to the *Blade*," was published February pith, and consisted of the report of the murder of a colored roan in New York.

February 18th, appeared the first "Steamer News " (by the *Hibernia*), the intelligence leaving, New York at 10:30 A. u, of the 17th.

The following explanations given in the Telegraph columns of the *Blade*, of the dates stated, will show something of the experiences, both of the Press and the Telegraph Company, at the outset of their connection

February 21st. "No report to-day. The Telegraph won't work to Buffalo."

February 23d, 3 P M " No report by Telegraph to day from Buffalo and New York. Wires broken."

March 9th, 11th and 21st. " No Telegraph report to-day."

March 23d. " Our neighbors at Cleveland having ordered the daily report by Telegraph to be stopped, we shall be unable to furnish it until we can make arrangements with a Buffalo reporter."

March 28th, reports were received.

April 1st. " The Telegraph wires are broken between this place and Sandusky City, consequently we have no report to-day."

April 11th. " Arrival of the '*Hibernia*.' Nothing startling-everything quiet. When we got this far, the Telegraph gave out."

April 1ath, the *Blade* had a new trouble, to wit: " The frequent se the Sandusky operator made of his ground-wire.' We received the report at 10 P. M., some four hours after our publication hour, and were put to the trouble of issuing an extra. Reasonable forbearance is a virtue, but there is a point where it ceases, and we are on the verge of that point."

April 19th. " Lines not working, in consequence of the wet weather."

April 24th. " The report of the operator is to-day, that there is no circuit East of Erie."

April 27th. " we regret that the transmission of our report should be delayed. But accidents will happen. The line is down somewhere."

May 1st. " A heavy storm prevents commnication by Telegraph East of Cleveland to-day."

May 2d. ' No Telegraphic report this afternoon."

Same, May 4th, 5th and 6th.

May 10th. " No report from New York to-day. Line down East of Rochester."

First Telegraph In Toledo Continued

Same, May 4th, 5th and 6th.

May 10th. " No report from New York to-day. Line down East of Rochester."

May 12th. " No report, and no explanation."

May 15th. "Some of our readers may be surprised at the absence of Telegraphic reports froth our paper. We will explain. We made an arrangement with the Cleveland publishers to procure the services of a reporter at Buffalo, but our Cleveland neighbors haying discontinued their reports, we are also obliged to do so. We are now trying to make arrangements for regular reports, and if we can do so and live, we shall ; otherwise, we shall discontinue altogether."

May 17th, 18th and 19th. " No report."

May 20th. " No report when we go to press there being electricity in the air."

May 23d. " No Buffalo report at the tine of going to press-because of electricity in the atmosphere."

May 31st, June 5th, 7th, 10th and 17th. " No report."

June 19th. " No New York report-lightning in the State of New York."

June 21st" New York line down."

During the next 18 days, the report failed six times, and then (July 11th) came this : " The natural lightning played a freak with the Telegraph today, which will probably prevent us from having reports for a week longer. It struck tare wires, broke the machine, upset the operator, and kicked up a fuss generally."

To add, if possible, to the annoyance, on the 31st of May the *Blade* received a joint letter from P. Evans Son, R. Evans, J. C. Woodward, W. R. Evans Co., and Moore & Henry, subscribers at Defiance, asking " to have their money refunded and the paper discontinued, unless they could have it regularly," they frequently getting two or three copies at a time. The editor explained the trouble and said : " Our subscribers would not blame us, did they know all. The meager reports we now receive, whether they come daily or weekly, cost about \$8.00 per week."

The facts given in this connection, indicate something of the trials to which the pioneer Telegraph managers, far more, even, than the Press, were subjected. The distance between the meager and unreliable reports of those day s and the page after page of Telegraphic news now daily and reliably transmitted, seems like the separation of two worlds. It should be borne in mind, that at the time named, but a single wire was stretched by imperfect fastenings, in many cases to insufficient poles, along the public highway-there then being no Railroad between Buffalo and Toledo-the only means of examining and repairing the line being by private conveyance, and much of the time over roads hardly passable. There were then no connecting lines, over which communication could be had. Hence, the " line down " at any point between Toledo and New York, was a complete suspension of business until the break could be found and repaired, which work, in many cases, was then devolved upon the local



1848

Toledo Blade

The first issue of what was then the *Toledo Blade* was printed on December 19, 1835. It has been published daily since April 17, 1848 and is the oldest continuously run business in Toledo.

David Ross Locke gained national fame for the paper during the Civil War era by writing under the pen name Petroleum V. Nasby. Under this name, he wrote satires ranging on topics from slavery, to the Civil War, to temperance. President Abraham Lincoln was fond of the Nasby satires and sometimes quoted them. In 1867 Locke bought the *Toledo Blade*.

Where did The Blade get its name? Toledo, Ohio has a sister city in Toledo, Spain. So it made sense that the newspaper be named after a well-known product of that city - the steel-bladed sword. Also, at the time the newspaper was founded, the Ohio-Michigan War was being waged for control of Lucas County, Ohio. It was believed that The Blade would "always leap from its scabbard whenever the rights of individuals, or the community, shall be infringed."

The paper dropped "Toledo" from its masthead in 1960.



1873



TOLEDO
LUCAS COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

On November 3, 1873, the Toledo Public Library opened for its first day of operation on the second floor of the King Block, a commercial building on the northeast corner of Madison Avenue and Summit Street.

In 1875, Miss Lucy Stevens succeeded Mrs. Carpenter as Librarian. In 1884, Stevens retired and was replaced by Mrs. Frances Jermain. In 1890, Edward O. Fallis designed a new Main Library to be built on the corner of Madison and Ontario in early Norman and Byzantine style. The final cost, including land, construction and some furniture, was \$84,793. It opened on June 23, 1890. An addition was built in 1914. In 1902, Jermain retired and was replaced by Willis Fuller Sewall. He left in 1914 and was replaced by Herbert S. Hirschberg.

An annex to the main library building saw construction begin in September, 1914, with the grand opening on October 21, 1915.

The first full-service branch library opened in April 1915 and was at the Glenwood School. It closed with the opening of the Eliza M. Kent Branch in 1917. Other branch libraries located in schools during the 1920s included Navarre, Nathan Hale, Oakdale-White, Hamilton, McKinley, Arlington, and Harvard schools.

In 1916, the Andrew Carnegie Fund offered \$125,000 to build five branches on sites to be provided by city. Consulting architect for all five buildings was Edward Tilton of New York. The five branches were the David R. Locke Branch, designed by M.M. Stophlet and opened on December 5, 1917; Eliza M. Kent Branch, designed by L.G. Welker and opened on December 11, 1917 (fire destroyed the original building in 1974); the Anna C. Mott Branch, designed by Bernhard Becker and opened on January 3, 1918; Frances D. Jermain Branch, designed by Bates and Gamble and opened on January 7, 1918; and the South Branch, designed by David L. Stine and Son, opened on January 16, 1918.

In 1923, Carl Vitz took over as Librarian. He was succeeded in 1937 by Russell Schunk, on whose watch the current Toledo Lucas County Main Library was built. It is on land that was the former home of the Toledo Central High School. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Hahn and Hayes and opened on September 5, 1940.^[13] The interior of the building was modeled after the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland. The exterior was modeled on that of Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.^[10] The one of the interesting features of the building are the vitrolite murals in the Clyde Scoles Historic Court and the Children's Library. The Local History and Genealogy Department was created when the new building opened.

On November 1, 1945, Herbert M. Sewell was named Librarian, taking over for Mr. Vitz; 10 years later, he was succeeded by Robert D. Franklin who stayed as Librarian until the merging of the 3 library systems.

The Lucas County Library opened in 1918 at the location that is now known as the Maumee Branch of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library system. Emilie Meuser was the first Director of the Lucas County Library. She was replaced by Dorothy Strouse who served in that role from 1929-1970 when the library systems merged. In 1937 the Lucas County Library system expanded to include bookmobile service for the first time in the county.

1898

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

One hundred and twentyfive years ago in April the Spanish-American War began, and residents of Toledo enlisted in the armed services. "Muster Day" April 29, 1898. This amazing photo with the Nasby Tower and the steeple of the 1877 First Congregational Church in the background was taken from the roof of the Oliver House and shows 1,000 members of the 16th Regiment of the Ohio National Guard marching from the Armory to Union Station, off to the Spanish-American War, two months after the Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor. Schools and businesses were closed and 25,000 people turned out for Toledo's largest celebration of the 19th century to wish the soldiers God-speed" and "Good Luck." The *Blade* wrote, "Thousands of people are on the streets at the break of dawn of that April day ... the streets on the line of march are eagerly sought, and on the sidewalks men, women and children line up for points of vantage ... as the parade starts, it is almost impossible to break through the great mass of people." Mayor Samuel "Golden Rule" Jones led the parade followed by Civil War veterans and policemen. "The troops are given a continuous ovation... They make an imposing sight as they move with swinging steps, with blanket-bags strapped in place, with canteens swung at their sides, and with 1,000 gun barrels glistening in the sun." The Regiment returned in May the following year with only three fatalities, all from disease.



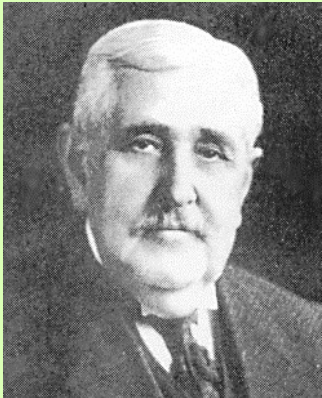
It was a peculiar war, to say the least, lasting only from April 21 to Aug. 13 of 1898. The war began after an explosion on the USS Maine in Havana Harbor during the Cuban war for independence against Spain. While President William McKinley, an Ohio native, had hoped to avoid the entanglement, political pressures at home forced him to do otherwise. Thousands of Ohioans, including hundreds from Lucas County, volunteered for service. While the war was brief, their enlistment lasted up to a year. It would be 27 years before northwest Ohio's contribution to the war effort was memorialized on Armistice Day — now Veterans Day — on Nov. 12, 1925. On that date, veterans from three wars — the Civil War, World War I, and the Spanish-



American War — gathered on the lawn of the Lucas County Courthouse to dedicate a statue to the Citizen Soldier.

In The Blade photo above, thousands of area residents and soldiers gathered for the celebration, which included speeches by local politicians, a combined march by veterans of the three wars, and dedication of the statue. Erected by Egbert Camp, United Spanish War Veterans, the bronze statue depicts a young man in the uniform of 1898 with a rifle in his hand. The statue is 8-feet tall, and stands atop a 50-ton, 10-foot granite base.

1898



Edward Ford

In 1898, Edward Ford purchased 173 acres of farmland along the Maumee River, just south of Toledo in Wood County, to build a plate glass factory. Ford arrived in this area after leaving Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) over a disagreement regarding the future direction of the company. In August of that year, the Edward Ford Plate Glass Company broke ground, on August 3, 1898, and a new business and a new community, emerged in Northwest Ohio. Ford's new factory made its first cast of plate glass on October 28, 1899.

As workers arrived to work at his new operation—many of them from the glass plants in Pennsylvania and Eastern Europe—Ford built a company town to house them. The result is Rossford, Ohio. The name was derived by combining Ford's second wife's surname (Ross) with his own. By the way, Rossford is not the first city named after a Ford in the plate glass business. Ford's father, John B. Ford, co-founder of PPG, chose a site 40 miles outside of Pittsburgh in 1887 for the PPG Works No. 3 glass factory and named it Ford City, Pennsylvania.

Edward Ford passed away at the age of 77 in his Collingwood Avenue home on June 24, 1920 but his business legacy lived on throughout the majority of the nineteen-hundreds as LOF. To understand how Ford Plate Glass Company came to be known as LOF you have to go back to 1916 when Michael Owens and Edward Drummond Libbey partnered to form Libbey-Owens Sheet Glass Company in Toledo. In 1926, Libbey-Owens developed laminated safety glass. By 1928, eight years after Ed Ford's death and three years after Libbey's passing, Libbey-Owens won a contract to supply the Ford Motor Company with windshields for their Model A. In 1930, Libbey-Owens merged with the Edward Ford Plate Glass Company to form Libbey-Owens-Ford (LOF) to focus on the growing demand for automotive glass. The merger paid big dividends when one year later, in the height of the Great Depression, LOF purchased the National Plate Glass Company in Ottawa, Illinois from General Motors and won an exclusive contract to supply GM with all of its glass needs. Within one year, LOF had a virtual lock on the automotive glass industry.

In April 1986, LOF sold its glass business and name to the Pilkington Group, a multinational glass manufacturer headquartered in the UK. As part of the Pilkington Group, the company retained the LOF name. However, in June 2006, Pilkington was acquired by Nippon Sheet Glass, and the LOF name was abandoned to re-brand globally under the Pilkington name.

Ground breaking August 3, 1898



1898

Toledo Country Club

The Clubhouse at the Country Club, 3949 River Road, Built in 1898. The Country Club is the oldest in Toledo and one of the oldest in the state. The original six acres were purchased in 1897 and could be reached by the Toledo and Maumee Railroad or horse and buggy. The Shingle-style clubhouse with its Colonial Revival detailing was a popular destination for parties, and architect George Mills charged \$50 to design the rotunda dining room in 1903. It was said that Edward Drummond Libbey had first seen men playing golf in Florida in the mid-1890s and was impressed with the new sport; he sold the idea to the directors of the country club, and they gave him \$500 and appointed him to a committee to lay out the links. Another 100 acres was purchased and in 1904 a newspaper wrote, "During the past week a large force of men was employed in clearing the newly purchased grounds of the Country club for the golf links which will open as early next spring as the weather will permit." The club also offered bowling, badminton, skeet shooting, and tennis. In 1939 it was voted to prohibit ladies from playing golf on Saturdays until after all the men had teed off. The club was renamed Toledo Country Club in 1948.



1898

Captain Oscar S. Wills

On May 22, 1898, Captain Oscar Will was killed by falling walls at a warehouse fire at the Dow & Snell Wholesale Grocery, Superior and Jefferson.

The Dow Snell Company's wholesale grocery building caused a loss of about \$350,000. Several other firemen were seriously injured.

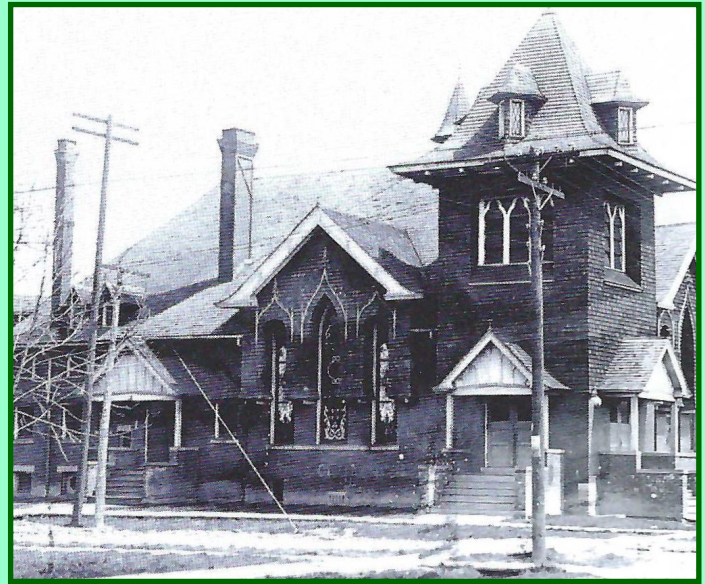


1898

St. James Methodist Episcopal Church

St. James Methodist Episcopal Church, 2616 Erie Street, Built in 1898. Harry Wächter also designed this North Toledo church that displays the architectural elements he used again and again to great effect—the witches hat dormers on the tower roof, the slight curve of the gable ends and porches reminiscent of a Chinese pagoda, and the use of brick on the ground floor and shingles above, embellished with spidery applied decoration.

Originally known as the Albany Street Methodist Church, the educational wing was built before the sanctuary. The congregation disbanded in 1972. The building, still used as a church, is currently covered in a mummy wrapping of aluminum siding.



1898

First Church of Christ Scientist



First Church of Christ Scientist, Lawrence Avenue and Monroe Street, Built 1898-1899. This is one of the Toledo churches designed by Columbus architects Yost and Packard with Toledo architect Edward Fallis. The congregation - was organized in 1890 with 15 members under Miss. Sarah I. Clark, a student of Mary Baker Eddy. Miss Clark donated land for a church, the first Christian Science church in Ohio and only the third branch church in the world. The interior seats 500 and has a large leaded glass dome The church was

purchased by the Universal Community Church in 1966 and has been well main-

1923

Toledo Safety Building



Safety Building under construction

The Safety Building was designed as a classically inspired palace by Mills, Rhines, Bellman & Nordhoff,

October 18, 1923 ground was broken for the Safety Building on Erie Street. It was completed in 1926 and housed Toledo city government until the Government Center Building was constructed 1983.



Safety Building

in

1923

Scott High School National Champions



In 1922 and 1923, Scott was 19-0-0 for those two seasons, Not only were they named state champions (sharing the honor with Massillon Washington in '22 and East Cleveland Shaw in '23), but each season Toledo Scott was also named the national champion. (East Cleveland Shaw also shared in the 1923 national championship.) And, unlike today, Scott High School won those national championships on the gridiron. In 1922 the Bulldogs defeated the team from Corvallis (Ore.) High School, 32-0, and in 1923 defeated both Washington High School of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 24-21, and Columbia Prep of Portland, Oregon, 20-17, to earn the national title.

1923

Fort Wayne to Toledo Canoe Race

On August 3, 1923 two Toledo men, Robert Bauman and John Riddle, for second year in a row, win the Fort Wayne to Toledo canoe race for the annual Aquamana Fest. Total time over the 135-mile journey: 25 hours and 38 minutes.



1948

Jeepster

The Jeepster is an automobile originally produced by Willys-Overland Motors from January 18, 1948 to 1950. It was developed to fill a gap in the company's product line, crossing over from their "utilitarian" proto SUVs and trucks to the passenger automobile market.

The Jeepster initially included numerous deluxe features and interior fittings in addition to a high level of standard equipment that cost extra on other automobiles. A total of almost 20,000 were manufactured.



The basic 1948 Jeepster included numerous deluxe features and interior fittings in addition to a high level of standard equipment that cost extra on other automobiles. These included, among many others, whitewall tires, hubcaps with bright trim rings, sun visors, deluxe steering wheel, wind wings, locking glovebox, cigar lighter, and continental tire with fabric cover. The Jeepster had Willys' World War II-proven 134.2 cu in (2.2 L) straight-4 "Go Devil" engine, and plastic side curtains, but its US\$1,765 (equivalent to

DeLuxe Club convertible with roll-down windows, fancier styling, and a V8 engine.

The car was only offered with rear-wheel drive, thus limiting its appeal to typical Jeep customers. ^[11] Its distinctive boxy styling and performance were praised by automotive journalists.^[citation needed] However, the Jeepster did not catch on with the intended market segment. Sales were also limited by sparse advertising and an insufficient dealer network.

The Jeepster's I-4 engine was rated at 63 hp (47 kW; 64 PS) and coupled to a Borg-Warner T-96 3-speed manual transmission with an overdrive unit as standard.^[1] The Planadyne single transverse leaf spring independent front suspension, entire drivetrain, front end, rear suspension, steering, and four-wheel drum brakes were from the Willys Station Wagon. The flat-topped rear fenders were taken from the Jeep truck line.



1948

Patrolman Harold Stevens

On July 4, 1948 the Blade reported "Two persons were killed and three injured yesterday when a police patrol car, on an emergency run to Mercy Hospital, collided with a passenger car at Monroe and Seventeenth Streets." A vehicle had failed to yield the right of way to the emergency vehicle and struck Officer Stevens and his partner as they rushed a stabbing victim to Mercy Hospital. The impact caused both vehicles to overturn and Stevens was thrown from the vehicle. Officer Stevens was appointed to the Police Department on March 16, 1922. During the depression of the 1930's, he suffered from an illness that he tried to hide from the Police Department for fear of losing his job. In the midst of the Great Depression, he tried to hang onto what he had. He was reprimanded several times for what looked like careless performance of his duties. The punishment at that time was to add three extra hours onto his workday, sometimes for weeks on end. Ill and fatigued, he made no argument in his defense. After he was dismissed in 1935, the truth about his condition was made known and his name was cleared. Officer Stevens was treated and returned as a valuable member of the Toledo Police Department. "He won the praise of his superior officers in February, 1946, when he chased and shot a car theft suspect in the 1900 block of Erie Street." Stevens resided at 722 1/2 Main Street and left behind a wife and three children.



Patrolman Albert Fadell

On Monday, November 15, 1948, an automobile operated by Mr. James Bilbrey, a Mud Hens and St. Louis Browns baseball pitcher, failed to stop at Canton and Beacon Streets. "Mr. Bilbrey, a bartender at the Gaiety Night Club during the off-season for baseball . . . admitted, according to police, that he failed to stop but said he was prevented from seeing the warning sign by an illegally parked automobile at the corner. This car also kept him from having a view of Canton Street traffic, he said. The policeman's motorcycle struck Mr. Bilbrey's car." On Thursday, November 18, Officer Fadell died in Mercy Hospital. The motorcycle squad was the most dangerous police assignment at the time. Officer Fadell was the seventh officer from the squad killed in the line of duty; five in traffic accidents and two in gun battles. The official pension record also showed that men were forced to retire eventually because of serious injuries suffered while they were motorcycle policemen. "In fact," Superintendent Delehany said, "in the 36-year history of the squad, excluding current members, only retired Detective Lieutenant James Ford escaped serious injury as a squad member." Officer Fadell was married with two daughters and resided at 1234 Colton Street. He had only been an officer since February of 1947 when he left the U.S. Army.



1948

WSPD
Television
13



Owned by Storer Broadcasting, the station signed on the air for the first time July 21, 1948, as WSPD-TV. The studios were located at 136 Huron Street in Toledo. It was Toledo's first television station, and the first television station in the Storer Broadcasting chain.

Originally, the station carried programming from all four television networks: ABC, NBC, CBS and DuMont. However, it was a primary NBC affiliate. owing to its radio sisters' long affiliation with NBC radio.

In 1958, CBS moved its affiliation to newly signed-on WTOL-TV. WSPD kept its ABC and NBC affiliations. In 1961, WSPD-TV became an exclusive NBC affiliate in 1970, when Overmyer Broadcasting, then owner of then-independent WDHO-TV (channel 24, now WNWO-TV), persuaded ABC to move its affiliation there. By then, WSPD-TV had become the first station in northwest Ohio to broadcast in color.

Storer also owned stations in Detroit and Cleveland that were longstanding CBS affiliates. WSPD-TV provided city-grade coverage to most of Detroit's suburbs, while its grade B signal could be seen in Detroit and Cleveland. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) grandfathered this situation under its "one-to-a-market" rule in the 1970s. Storer sold off its radio stations but kept channel 13. As a result of an FCC rule, TV and radio stations in the same market, but with different owners have to have different callsigns, channel 13 became WTVG on October 1 of that year. By then the studio building on Huron Street had been outgrown and WTVG moved into its current studio building in southwest Toledo on Dorr Street.

The Storer stations were taken over by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. (KKR) in 1985. As a result, WTVG lost its grandfathered protection and was not sold to Gillett Communications along with the other Storer stations in 1987. Instead, it was sold to a local employee/investor group called Toledo Television, Inc. Toledo Television, in turn was bought out by SJL Broadcast Management in 1991.

The E. W. Scripps Company, owner of WXYZ and WEWS, then told ABC that unless it agreed to affiliate with their stations in Phoenix, Tampa, and Baltimore, it would switch WXYZ to CBS. Scripps also threatened to switch WEWS to CBS. As a contingency, ABC approached SJL about buying WTVG and WJRT-TV in Flint, Michigan. As mentioned above, WTVG provides grade B coverage of Detroit itself and city-grade coverage to most of Detroit's suburbs, as well as Grade B coverage to the Sandusky and Norwalk areas in Ohio. The deal, valued at \$120 million, closed on August 29, 1995.

However, WTVG's affiliation contract didn't run out until October, so ABC had to run WTVG as an NBC affiliate for two months while NBC looked for a new affiliate in the area. On October 28, 1995, ABC moved to WTVG, sending the NBC affiliation to WNWO-TV.

WTVG's broadcasts became digital-only, effective June 12, 2009.

On November 3, 2010, *Broadcasting & Cable* magazine announced that SJL Broadcasting, made an agreement with Disney to buy back WTVG and WJRT. Both stations retained their affiliations with ABC. WTVG began being owned by SJL Broadcasting again beginning April 1, 2011.

On July 24, 2014, SJL announced that it would sell WTVG and WJRT again, to Gray Television, of Lansing, Michigan. The sale was completed on September 15.

On September 1, 2014, WTVG added The CW to its second digital sub-channel replacing Live Well Network, acquiring the syndicated programming from Toledo 5 cable channel operated by Buckeye Cablesystem. The move made The CW's programming available over-the-air and in high definition in Toledo for the first time since the network's launch.

On June 25, 2018, Gray announced its intent to acquire Raycom Media. On August 20, 2018, Gray announced that they would retain WTVG and sell WTOL and the SSA for WUPW.



1973

The Toledo War

One-hundred-and-thirty-eight years after it began, the border war between the states of Michigan and Ohio finally ended on February 22, 1973.

That's the date the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Turtle Island, a 1.5-acre spit of land in Lake Erie, fell in Ohio territorial waters alone — not half in both states as Michigan had long maintained.

Seen in this 1958 Blade archive photo by Carl Gifford, Turtle Island's earliest known use was as a hunting ground for the Miami Indians; it was named for one of their councilors, Chief Little Turtle. By 1794 British troops were stationed on the six-acre island in their unsuccessful bid to halt U.S. General Anthony Wayne's conquest of the Northwest Territory, including Detroit.

In subsequent decades, Turtle Island accommodated American troops, a yacht club, a dredging operation and countless day-trippers who would take their boats to the island to picnic. Even so, Lake Erie storms continued to lash at its shores, reducing the island to less than an acre today.

The Supreme Court ruling resolved the last remaining dispute from a conflict that dated to the early 1830s, when both the then-territory of Michigan and State of Ohio coveted Maumee Bay for their port. In 1835, Michigan finally ceded the "Toledo strip" to Ohio under pressure from Congress and President Andrew Jackson to gain its statehood.

But those 1835 boundary lines only pertained to land. The debate over where the state line should be drawn in the waters of Lake Erie continued for another century plus, with both states claiming all or part of Turtle Island.

In the early '70s, Congress dispatched a special master who determined that the boundary line was angled to the northeast, as Ohio maintained, not a straight line through the island as Michigan contended.

The high court upheld the special master's report with its 1973 ruling, and thus ended once and for all the Toledo War.



1973

Tiedtke's

The firm that would be known as Tiedtke's set up shop in 1894. Brothers Charles and Ernest Tiedtke, opened a grocery store at Summit and Monroe downtown. With Toledo an important lake port, their primary business was lake traffic, delivering groceries and supplies to the freighters that would pass through on the Maumee River. Soon, business was brisk enough for them to expand and carry dry goods, as well as require a fleet of horse-and-buggies to handle the demand.

The Tiedtkes expanded the business further and by 1910, they had moved the business up Summit Street to the northeast corner of Adams, which it would occupy for the next six decades. With their core business food, they leased the upper floors of the building to firms selling furniture, housewares, clothing and shoes. The brothers also added a bakery, deli and restaurants. The concept was ahead of its time, a forerunner of what would be termed "one-stop shopping".

This was one of the first megastore groceries. The brothers purchased a tugboat and would sell and deliver to mariners as they went through the Maumee River on their way to the Great Lakes. Overhead trolleys in the store would move customer's change, product and receipts. The store front windows were white washed, and covered with advertisements, like a carnival side show. This was thought to cut down on the need to advertise.



In 1961, the Kobackers sold Tiedtke's to the Detroit-based department chain Federal's. They, too, retained the Tiedtke's name-plate, but made a lot of other changes, such as altering the layout of the sales floors and deemphasizing the store's core grocery business. This, along with the ongoing flight of residents from the inner-city to the

suburbs, caused sales at the store to decline.

The store continued to be a community center. Big quirky events were part of its modus operandi. For example, in 1961 it brought in a real giant, 7 feet 4 inches Jakob Nacken to celebrate its "big event."

Early 1970s, saw Tiedtke's close annex store. The main Summit Street store closed for good on September 2, 1972.

The Tiedtke's location at Greenwood Mall hung on for another year, closing in 1973.