

## A Journey Down Penfield Road (Part 1)

(by Jay Taber and Friends)

*Editor's Note: This is Part One of a narrative written by former Walworth resident Jay Taber, who recently shared his memories of living on Penfield Road. Several residents were able to include additional information. If anyone can add other names and dates to the story let us know.*

*The journey begins at the four corners in Walworth hamlet and heads west. The journey continues in future issues and will include the remaining north side of Penfield-Walworth Road and property on the south side of the road.*

NOTE: House numbers throughout Wayne County were changed in the early 1970's for simplification and emergency response purposes. The numbers in parentheses are the original numbers that are no longer used.

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Arline and I moved to 2203 Penfield Road in August of 1955. Fifty years later (lacking two months) we moved to Daniel's Creek in Penfield. We knew everybody on the street before we moved in. Today there are people living there whom we do not know at all.

**2225 - (2):** The trip begins at the northwest corner of Penfield-Walworth and Ontario-Walworth Roads. Harry and Myrna Conant lived there for years. Myrna was a rather imposing individual. During the Depression, many people in the Walworth community boarded women from the state school in Newark. Today we would call them intellectually challenged. At that time we called them mildly retarded. Myrna was head of that program, checking to see that the "girls" were contented and getting along well with family members where they lived and with other women from the school living in the household.

When Myrna died, the Schenks, Sheila (Roger Pembroke's daughter) and Bill and their family – Brian, Barry, and Julie - lived there for several years, followed by Joe and Marcia Englert and their children, Sue, Patti, and Joey. In the early 80's, there were several additions

to the house and the structure was divided into three apartments. Current owner/occupant Kathleen Celso purchased the property in 1987.

**2213 – (8):** The house to the west of Conants was owned and occupied by Orley and Matie Clark. They had lived there for a long time before we moved to the neighborhood. Mr. Clark was well along in years and died within a few years of our move to the street. Charlie Pembroke bought the house and rented it to several people before he sold it to current owners Ronald and Diane Hermanet. For several years Willie and Nancy Rowell have lived there.

**2209 – (10):** At one time Henry Bean operated a harness shop, hardware store and gasoline station at that location. Later, George Fehr operated a woodworking and upholstery shop in the front part of the building; he had an English bulldog. The desk recently donated to the Walworth Historical Society was made there.

When Charlie and Bertha Pembroke purchased the property in the late '40's they remodeled it into a home for themselves and their sons, Burton and Vaughn. Charlie and Bertha lived there until their retirement move to Florida in 1997. Charlie was probably better known than anyone in town since he was a heating, plumbing, and electrical man.

From our house we watched a constant stream of people stop in to Charlie's to ask him to come fix something or other. Or they stopped just to talk. Whenever someone asked where we lived, I always replied that we lived the first place west of Charlie. Charlie wrote the little booklet, "Walworth, As I Remember It," in which he recalls many of the events and people of the town. Current owners are Ronald and Diane Hermanet.

**2203 – (12):** The next house is the cobblestone home we lived in for so long with our daughters, Mary Ellen and Joan. The house

was built in the 1840's and has had a succession of owners, including Henry and Libby Bean in the early 1920's. His sister, Carrie Carter, inherited it upon their deaths. Carrie and her husband in turn left it to their two daughters and son - Mrs. Fred Peacock, Ray (Grace) Carter, and Mrs. Peet. The Carter children sold it to the Bennetts, whose son Vern and his wife Helen lived there for about five years with their children. They sold it to us in 1955.

The second floor space had been increased to add an apartment, which was rented at various times. Bill, Hennie, and Bunny Underhill lived there when we first moved in. Newlyweds Leighton and Nancy Bel lived there from 1956 – 1960, and in 1962 Arline's mother moved into the apartment.

Last summer we sold our home to Jim and Linda Harden and their children.

**2199 – (14):** Across the driveway to the west lived Floyd and Clara (Green) Coomber with their children, Larry, Donald, and Nancy. Enos and Ethel Wagemaker and their three children, Sharon, Eddie, and Donna, moved in later and stayed until the death of Mr. Wagemaker. Bill and Lois Monro and children Lisa, Leslie, and Billy next occupied the house. Several years later and after Mrs. Monro died, their son Bill, his wife DeeDee and their daughter Jessica lived there. Nancy Everdyke and Earl Beasley with her children, Aaron and Corrin, moved into the house about five years ago.

Perhaps this is a good time to pause to emphasize what a great neighborhood this has been. Nancy and Earl, Lee and Katie Bel, Bill and Lois Monro, and the Allens have been close to us and, in later years, watched out for “the old folks” living at 2203. Charlie and Bertha and Gertie and Louis Duell were also great neighbors on whom we could and did depend.

*To be continued.....*



2225 Penfield Road



2213 Penfield Road



2209 Penfield Road



2203 Penfield Road



2199 Penfield Road