

A Journey Down Penfield Road: Part Four

by Jay Taber and Friends

Part Four: Jay continues his narrative from the September newsletter, reminiscing about the 50+ years he and Arline lived on Penfield Road. Additional information has been added where available. This final trip segment begins at the intersection of Walworth-Penfield Road and Church Street and ends at the four corners. If anyone can add other names and dates to the story let us know.

NOTE: House numbers throughout Wayne County were changed in the mid 1970's for simplification and emergency response purposes. The numbers in parentheses are the original numbers that are no longer used. The road was originally called Town Line Road or Rochester Road.



2188 Penfield Road



2194 Penfield Road



2200 Penfield Road

2188 – (19): Known as the **Esley** house, this partial cobblestone home is located at the southeast corner of Penfield Road and Church Street. The cobblestone addition was built in 1840 and several years later another addition was built to the rear. Dr. Ernest E. Esley's office was in the home's northwest front corner. In 1933 the Esley's purchased additional property to the west of their home from Robert and Alice Bridges of 2175 Church Street (the current Pease property).

Although Dr. Esley had passed away in 1946 before we moved into our house, his widow, Mabel, still lived there with their son Ernest and daughter Marjorie. Marjorie (professionally known as Joan Esley) illustrated children's books and frequently used Walworth children as her models. Later Ernest married and continued to live there for several years.

Later, **Rosalee Amorasa-Wills** and sons Al and Chris boarded men from the Newark Developmental School. In 1992 **Jim and Kimberly LeMay** purchased the property from Rosalee. It is now also home to their daughter, Lindy.

2194 – (17): A garage and gas station were previously located here. When we moved here in 1950 **Anna and Elton May** owned the greenhouses and a floral shop which they later sold to **Charlotte and Milton Bradshaw**. A 1959 hail storm did considerable damage to the greenhouses. The business was eventually discontinued and the buildings were not used for several years.

Robert Pekarsky lived there for a period of time. **G. Melin** purchased the property in July 1980 and sold it to **Francis and Gregory Frey** of Frey Holding Company in January 1990, who renovated the building for their business, **Frey Technologies, Inc.** Francis sold his interests to Gregory in July 1998.

2200 – (15): **Anna and Elton May** and daughter Esther moved out of their house at the time we moved into ours across the road in 1955. Elton, always quick with a quip, shouted over that he felt the neighborhood was going to pot and they had to move! Elton's mother, Mrs. William (Jennie Clark) May, lived in the upstairs apartment. **Milton and Charlotte Bradshaw** and their children Bonnie, Cheryl, and Grant were the next owners. The May's and Bradshaw's eventually traded houses, and the May's moved to 3706 Main Street where they had a small garden.

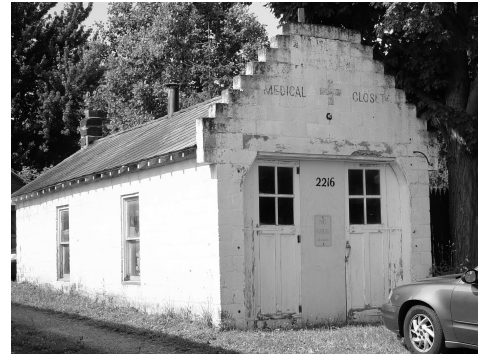
Later **Mary Lou and Jesse Zeck** and children Jason and Melissa lived there for several years until **Stuart Hotchkiss** bought it. His daughter lived there for a time. In 1993 current owner **Aaron Johnston** bought it and lived in the first floor apartment for a short period of time. After the Zecks moved out, the upstairs apartment was renovated and has been rented until the present day.



2204 Penfield Road



2212 Penfield Road



2216 Penfield Road

2204 – (13): Gertie and Louis Duell and daughters Burnice, Eleanor and Arlene lived here. Gertie's brother Ernest Bel and his family lived next door (see #2212). The house was a double when the Duells purchased it about 1925; renovations continued for many years.

At the time when we moved across the road, there was a long porch on the front of their house. The Duells sat there at night and Arline and I often went over to visit with them. Later, they put aluminum siding on the house and cut the porch size down, although they still continued to sit there on warm summer evenings. In June 2002 **Charles Caradonna** purchased the property from **Ronald Meier**.

2212 – (9): This house is located next to the first fire house. **Chris VanBortel** purchased the property in November 1992 from **Tom and Patty Allen**. Chris has done extensive interior remodeling and believes the siding on the north side is the original clapboard.

Chris has a deed dated 1881 showing the property belonged to the **Chase family**, who sold it to **Stephen A. Taber**. In 1896 **Esther Hoyt** willed the property to the 2nd Baptist Church of Walworth, who transferred it to executor **Stephen Taber** two years later.

George Kress purchased it in 1903; after his death, his wife Alice sold it to **William and Lillie Crane** in 1918. The **Chapman family** (Stuart, Jean, and an older brother) lived there before it was sold to **Bernard H. and Nellie Bel** in 1937. Ten years later, their son **Ernest and his wife Iona**, parents of Leighton and Ernestine, became owners.

After Ernest's death, granddaughter **Patty Allen and her husband Tom** moved in to take care of Iona and eventually bought the house in 1986. Patty thought the people in the neighborhood didn't know each other as well as they might, so she organized a pig roast and invited everyone nearby as well as her customers (she operated a beauty parlor in the house). She did this for several years and even continued hosting the pig roast after they moved to Macedon.

2216: Loan closet/1st fire house: This was Walworth Fire Department's first fire house and was home to the chemical cart. The property was purchased in 1929 when the department was established. It was later used as a medical loan closet for wheel chairs, beds, commodes, crutches and other related items. The loan closet is now located at the town hall. **David and Andrea Kords** purchased the building in March 2004.



2218 Penfield Road



3719 Walworth-Palmyra Road

2218: 2nd fire house: When another fire truck was purchased in 1950 it became apparent that a larger fire house was needed, and the fire department purchased land to the east of #2216 from the **Walworth Grange**. A water cistern, storing 25,000 gallons of water for fire protection, was also constructed under the floor of the new building. Current owner **William Thompson** purchased it in March 2002.

3719 Walworth-Palmyra Road/corner Penfield Road: In the 40's this area at our four corners was a park, where the school band concerts were held. **Stanley VanHoover** purchased this vacant corner lot in 1948 and built a gas station containing an office and car-repair bay; there was one Esso gas pump. The second car-repair bay was added sometime later.

Warren Bell worked part-time evenings and weekends for Stanley. When Stanley left in 1958 he leased the building to Radley Oil Company of Marion. Warren rented the building from Radley for two years before purchasing it from Stanley in 1960 and it became a Sinclair station. Warren added the storeroom to the north, raised the roof to the south, and added the large window.

In 1984 the property was sold to Albert Schreiber who operated it as a repair shop and gas station. In August 1991 **David Villa** purchased it and it became a Volkswagen repair shop.

The property has been operated by Warren and Betty Bell under these names: Bell's Sinclair Service, Bell's Esso Service, Bell's Exxon Service, and Bell's Mobil Service. The property has been vacant for approximately three years and is currently for sale by Warren and Betty.

Editor's Note: We hope you have enjoyed Jay's journey. We are always on the lookout for historical information of local interest. How about writing about your street or neighborhood.