



**February 18, 2016**  
**THE STORY OF THE OHIO CANALS**  
**Tom O'Grady, Executive Director**  
**Athens County Historical Society and Museum**  
*Introduction by Don Jordan*

Tom came to Athens County in 1980 for graduate school and has an MS in Environmental Studies. He ran the Athens County Recycling and Litter Prevention Program in Athens and Hocking counties for 25 years and in 1984 started the first curbside recycling program in Ohio. He has been teaching observational astronomy at Ohio University and doing astronomy outreach in Southeast Ohio for 31 years. He also has taught sustainable development at Hocking College and Ohio geography at the OU Lancaster campus.

He serves on the boards of Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area and Friends of Ohio Barns. He recently become the Director of the Athens County Historical Society and Museum—soon to be known as the Southeast Ohio History Center.

Early career details include a two-year stint in the military, a job as an able-bodied seaman on an iron ore tanker on the Great Lakes, and a surveyor for the state of Ohio, Department of Natural Resources.


If you want to know about snow information and other local emergencies, you can sign-up for telephone, mobile phone, email, or text messages from Alert Athens County. Click on this address (<https://member.everbridge.net/index/1772417038942516#/login>) to create an account. It's a fast and easy way to know what's happening in the county as quickly as possible.

*Anita, editor*

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**EMERITI LUNCHEON**  
 Thursday  
**February 18, 2016**  
**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**RESERVATIONS** must be made to attend the luncheon. If you are not on the "ALWAYS" list of regular attendees, you **MUST** call or email Ruth Nostrant at 593-5194 or nostrant@ohio.edu by **Friday, February 12**. You may pay by cash or by check made payable to OU Emeriti.

You can add your name(s) to the Regular Attendees List and not have to call each month unless you cannot attend.

**BALLROOM**

**MENU** \$15.00

*Caesar Salad*  
*Zucchini, Squash, & Red Onion Salad*  
*Meat Lasagna*  
*Vegetable Lasagna*  
*Garlic Bread*  
*Cannoli's & Lemon Cake*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Alan Boyd

In our society, we use the word “culture” to mean art, sophistication, music, and other adornments of society. We use the word “cultured” as an adjective to describe someone who is knowledgeable and sophisticated. As an anthropologist, I learned that “culture” can be used to mean the basic understanding of our environment and society that each person acquires from experiences at the beginning of life. We all mature feeling as if the world as we experience it is the reality that all people experience. It is only later in life that we learn that other people from other places see and feel reality in different ways.



I was reminded of this understanding of culture by a description of the manners of Edwardian England that accompanied a presentation of *Downton Abbey*. The historian, Alistair Bruce, a consultant for the program, who works hard to enable the actors to portray their characters as authentically as possible, closed his description by saying that what may seem odd to us was very natural to the British of that time. He called it a secret code. They understood that someone must sit up at the dinner table, never thank the servants for their service, do not gesture widely with the arms, and speak loudly so they are heard. Men cannot hug each other no matter how emotional a conversation may be. They can only shake hands or grasp each other’s shoulders. Edwardian Brits observed these behaviors as children and were completely comfortable with them as adults. As Bruce put it, their culture was as natural as the air they breathed.

In our society, we grow up assuming that it is natural to wear diapers and, later, underwear, to be held and hugged by our mothers, to take regular baths, and to not interrupt someone of authority, such as a parent or teacher. In fact, the very language we are introduced to as children is accepted as correct and natural.

In anthropology classes I have taught, I have tried to enable students to appreciate that in other societies, whether their kinship systems are matrilineal or multilateral, whether they sleep on the floor or in beds, whether they enjoy eating insects or not, whether they have string instruments or not, their culture seems as natural and normal to them as ours does to us. As Americans, we do not have a monopoly on correctness. We have our ways and they have theirs. It is not a matter of right or wrong. Why different societies have adopted their particular ways is very difficult to figure out. Maybe the environment had an influence; maybe some ways were convenient, maybe some were an invention of creative people. We cannot know. We can only become sophisticated in a slightly different way by becoming appreciative of the many cultures there are in this world—including our own. Every culture seems as natural as the air we all breathe. Athens is a great place to learn to appreciate other cultures. Through colleagues, neighbors, and special events like the International Street Fair, we can experience how others view the world. *Alan*

### Notes on January’s Luncheon Presentation by Brooke Hallowell “OHIO UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE ON AGING”

The Collaborative brings together researchers, teachers, practitioners, students, and community members interested in the aging process. While it is true that we are all aging from the day of our birth, the focus is on the older population. The goal is to improve the lives of our older population. Currently this involves participants from seven colleges and over 100 individuals. The goal is to build connection and community at all levels: local, national, and global.

More information may be found on their website: [www.ohio.edu/aging](http://www.ohio.edu/aging). If you would like to volunteer for one of their research projects, go to [www.researchmatch.org](http://www.researchmatch.org). To receive their monthly newsletter, e-mail Amy Meeks at [meeks@ohio.edu](mailto:meeks@ohio.edu). *Ed Baum*

### Preview: The March Lunch Speakers

The speakers for our luncheon on March 17 are Merri Biechler, author, and Shelley Delaney, actress, on "Tammy Faye's Last Audition."

### OCHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

There has been no OCHER meeting since the last Board meeting. However, U.S. stock market averages are down about 10 percent this fiscal year, making it increasingly unlikely that STRS will meet its assumed 7.75 rate of return on its investments this year. The funding ratio of 69 percent is unlikely to increase, as hoped, towards a longer run goal of 80 percent. This will have no impact on any of us in the short run.

I assign an above 50 percent probability that STRS will restrict its support of retiree health care meaningfully this year or next. I cannot intelligently speculate, however, on the nature or magnitude of coming changes. *Rich Vedder*

### DO WE HAVE YOUR INFORMATION?

In late summer, you received a letter from the Membership Committee asking that you update your information. Even if nothing has changed, please locate the card, provide the requested information, and return it as soon as possible. If you cannot locate the card, please contact Margaret Thomas ([thomasm@ohio.edu](mailto:thomasm@ohio.edu) or (740) 593-8765) and ask how best to provide the information.

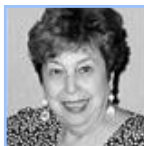
### WHEN THE WEATHER IS BAD ...

If it a **level 2 or 3** snow advisory, the lunch is cancelled.

If it a **level 1**, lunch will be held as usual ... but drive carefully.

If you cannot get out of your driveway, even at level 1 (some of our fellow emeriti have steep driveways) call the O.U. Inn (740-593-6661) and ask them to let the Emeriti and Catering know so that the numbers may be adjusted.

Julia Marie "Judy" Klare, age 93, passed away on January 13, 2016, in The Plains, Ohio. Born in Colony, Kansas, she was the daughter of the late Guy Vaughn and Bernice McCoy Price. Judy earned a bachelor's degree from the Kansas City Teachers College in 1942.



Judy earned a master's degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota. She married George R. Klare, a fellow graduate student, in 1946. They moved to Athens in 1954 when George joined the Department of Psychology.

Judy was an accomplished poet, publishing 350+ poems in her lifetime as well as two chapbooks of adult poetry. She also authored two books for teens.

Judy was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. George R. Klare, of The Plains. She is survived by two daughters, a son, a grandson, three nieces, and a nephew.

### IN MEMORIAM

Janet Arlene Betcher, 85, of Athens, died November 29, 2015. Born July 20, 1930, in Caldwell, she was the daughter of the late Owen H. and Jewel Parrish Pickenpaugh. A 1952 graduate of Ohio University, with a bachelor's degree in education, she retired from the Ohio University Library. She had formerly worked at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. It was there that she met her husband of 44 years, William M. Betcher.

Janet is survived by a daughter, a grandson, and two sisters. She was preceded in death by her husband, a sister, and a brother.

Helen G. Marsh, 79, died on December 17, 2015, after an extended illness. She was born at Flower Hospital in New York City to Thelma Sammis Spencer and Harold E. Spencer. She lived in Athens, where she raised her family, was employed at Ohio University in several administrative roles, and was an active participant at the Church of The Good Shepherd.



Helen is survived by her husband, Adam, their son and daughter, and two grandchildren.

Martha Rose Shaw Bitters, 88, of Athens, died on January 3, 2016, after a brief illness. She was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio, to Clint E. and Rose Shaw. She married Richard Lowell Bitters in 1947. In 1953, they returned to Athens, where Dick became the director of the OU Fund and assistant to President John C. Baker. Martha earned a BS in Education in 1971, and an Education Media Specialist degree in 1973. She was the librarian at Alexander High School for 10 years and worked at the Athens County Public Libraries in Athens until her retirement at age 75. Post retirement, Martha was actively involved in multiple Athens clubs and organizations.



Martha is survived by one son and two daughters, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two sisters. She was preceded in death by her husband, two sisters, and a brother.

Dr. Jess Norman "Norm" Parmer passed away on January 26, 2016, at the Dayton, Ohio VA Medical Center surrounded by his family. He was 90 years old. Norm served in the U.S. Army and fought in the Battle of the Bulge when he was 19. He married his high school sweetheart, Bessie Norma Peterson in 1948. He earned his Ph.D. from Cornell University and followed his passion for International Studies. He was the first Peace Corps Director in Malaysia, he was an Assistant Dean of Faculties and Director of the Center for International Studies at Ohio University, and served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Trinity University in San Antonio.



He is survived by a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bessie.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01 	02 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	03	04 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	05	06
07	08	09 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	10	11 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	12	13
14 	15	16 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>  Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	17	18 Emeriti Board Meeting  <b>EMERITI LUNCH</b> <i>OU Inn</i>	19	20
21	22	23 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	24	25 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	26	27
28	29	01 	02	03	04	05

PHOTOS FROM BROOKE HALLOWELL'S PRESENTATION



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