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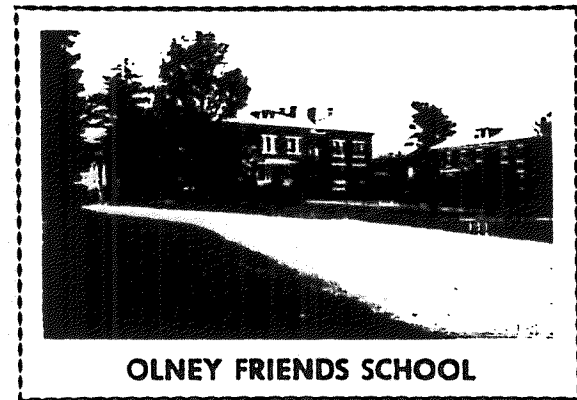
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THE

# OLNEY CURRENT

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Fall 1993

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## The Olney Current

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### WALTON RETIREMENT HOME

Reports from VICTOR PEACOCK hon., convener of the Board of Managers for the Walton Retirement Home and from managers, Nirmal and Diana Kaul, show that progress has been made on many of the items suggested by the long range planning committee appointed this spring. These items include:

1. New windows for the old original building which are waiting to be installed in the near future.
2. New furnaces that are being installed. In this process the furnace room had to be remodeled with new ceiling and plastered walls along the new floor.
3. New individual bathrooms are slowly being completed in conjunction with the other projects.
4. The new elevator is coming along nicely. This is a very good investment which means that people living at the Walton Home will be able to move around much easier and consequently be able to stay longer at the Walton.
5. The Smith property just south of the Walton was purchased to be remodeled into two independent living quarters. One has already been sold.
6. The retaining wall on the northwest side of the Walton Home is being replaced. This was necessary because the bank there has been steadily collapsing.
7. A letter was received from the governor, approving a grant that will extend Barnesville's city sewer system to the Walton Home.

Several of these projects initiated this year were not undertaken by choice but rather from necessity. They have taken a heavy toll on energies as well as material resources. Monetary gifts to help share the burden of remaining expenses will be greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible.

Nirmal writes in his report: "The year 1994 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Walton Home. Much has changed since that day when Friends James and Sara Walton gave their home to Ohio Yearly Meeting for the purpose of providing a home for people in their golden years. They had a vision of how their homestead could be used for the glory of God in providing a place of rest and retirement for OYM Friends. That vision has grown and matured with the passing of time and changing needs of the OYM Friends. As we approach the 50th anniversary year, we challenge Friends to consider their vision today of how the Walton Home could bring honor and glory to God, for it is only by committing ourselves, our visions, our hopes and dreams to His overall will and plan, that we can ever hope to succeed."

### REUBEN LINLEY ROCKWELL 100 YEARS OLD

Reuben Linley Rockwell was born on October 23, 1893 near Paullina, Iowa, the youngest child of five sons and one daughter of Franklin and Maria Rockwell. The family soon moved to Kansas where he remembers his older brothers firing a shot with the family shotgun at exactly midnight to usher in the Twentieth Century. Later he would take his faithful collie and that same gun to hunt prairie dogs that were a hazard to farming.

Reuben was a birthright member of the Religious Society of Friends so when his family, along with several uncles, aunts and cousins moved to the town of Fairhope in 1910 they immediately started holding worship services in the manner of Quakers, as members of this sect was commonly called. Many members from their meetings in Kansas, Iowa, Ohio and North Carolina soon joined them and formed a meeting school; built a schoolhouse and then the meetinghouse which will now house the celebration of Reuben's 100th birthday.

The reasons for this migration were varied: the mild and healthful climate; the opportunity to start a business or farming operation or build a home without expenditure of funds for the purchase of land so that money could be put into the projects themselves instead of in the land; and it was a gathering place for compatible people.

Reuben's family and some others recognized the moral and financial value of Henry George's economic

theory of a "single tax" on land only as applied in Fairhope. By collecting the annual location rental value of the land as created by the presence and activity of the people of the community or by nature, but not by the fruits of labor or thrift, and its use for the common needs of the community, it promotes honesty, industry and general cooperation. Reuben and his family became involved in the management of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation. Reuben has now been a member of the organization for 80 years and has served on the Executive Council for 30 years. He introduced classes in the theory of Henry George's Single Tax for members and the public which he continued to teach for many years.

When Reuben first came to Fairhope he decided to attend the high school of Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education. He says it was because he saw Helenbell Lucier there and liked what he saw. Four years later after two years at the "Organic School," a year at Olney Friends Boarding School in Barnesville, Ohio, where he graduated from high school, and setting himself up in a machine repair shop in Fairhope, he and Helenbell were married. He had built a three room cottage on Morphy Avenue with a bequest of \$75.00 from an aunt. They took the Bay steamer to Mobile where they were married by a judge of the Criminal Court who told them he did not want to see them in his courtroom again. He never did.

World War I found Reuben, Helenbell and year-old son Lucier in St. Paul, Minn., where he worked as a machinist to supply materials for a country at war. However, they were back in Fairhope in time for the arrival of brother Oliver for three-year-old Lucier's birthday present. With his enlarging family, Reuben accepted the position of rural mail carrier with the provision that he be allowed to use an automobile for his deliveries instead of the horse and buggy used previously. Permission was granted and so started a way of life for Reuben from the 1919 beginning until 1952 when he retired. He had many experiences driving through the piney woods, fording Cow Pen Creek, over the wash board and corduroy roads, (pine saplings laid side by side across marshy trails). Flat tires were often the chore of the day or getting his car out of a mud hole, which he soon became adept at avoiding.

By 1930 Edna Elaine and David Eugene had completed the family, or so they thought, until the late forties when Reuben and Helenbell adopted his two nephews, Vance and Michael, who needed a home. This was a busy time for

the family. Reuben had taken a leave of absence to work in a machine shop during World War II while Helenbell carried the mail as a substitute. So now, instead of taking it easier, they commenced a new family with Edna and David finishing high school and going to college, Lucier and Oliver and their families returning to Fairhope to live after finishing college and working at classified jobs during the war. And then there were children of relatives and friends who came to stay and go to the Organic School, as there had been from the beginning.

Sandwiched in all of this was a 70-acre farm on which they raised pecans, potatoes, truck crops, a chicken business and dairy farm, besides developing and manufacturing the EASY-CUT rotary, self-propelled lawn mowers, with the collaboration of son Lucier. Somewhere in all this Reuben was the town's movie projector operator from Mr. Totten's shows in the "old" Commings Hall to the Playhouse Theater of the Fuller family at the corner of Fairhope Avenue and Church Street. This period encompassed the change from silent movies to "talkies" and then to technicolor.

Reuben did not do things to win honors, or even to make lots of money, although he always provided for his family adequately. He did things because he was interested in them and enjoyed doing them. He was always keeping up with new developments and trying out new things. So it was no great surprise when he set out for a utopian community called Monteverde in Costa Rica that many of his relatives and friends from the Fairhope Friends Meeting and elsewhere had started after WWII and the Korean Conflict because of Costa Rica's peaceful government and because they would be able to provide a simpler life for themselves and their children. They had been able to acquire land in the western mountainous region up to the Continental Divide, which included a part of the rain forest and which they have now dedicated to the Rain Forest Reserve. Reuben's contribution to this effort was to provide hydro-electric power to serve the community and their cheese plant which was the main financial effort of the community and which continues until the present time.

Reuben and Helenbell made about eight round trips to Costa Rica, returning to Fairhope to acquire materials, to consult with his two electrical engineer sons, Lucier and Oliver, and to work for five years for Palmer and Baker in their laboratory (for which he received a sterling silver Service Award cup). Some of these trips were by

land before the continental highway was opened through that area.

By 1970 Reuben and Helenbell decided it was time to retire again, in Fairhope, where they built a home so they could be near most of their family, Helenbell could go to her art classes, and son David would add to Reuben's work shop with a woodworking shop, a sawmill and all sorts of interesting things that Reuben enjoys going out and watching, advising and questioning.

Helenbell died in 1987, just before their 73rd wedding anniversary. Reuben still lives in their home with care from family members and others when necessary. All of his children live within fifty miles of his home.

After eighty years of membership in the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation (an unchallenged record) he still goes to vote on election of officers or other matters that come up. He also keeps current on national and world affairs. Above all he still has his keen sense of humor and common sense as well. With all of his children living but Lucier, seventeen grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren and many friends near him, he seems to feel a contentment in a long life well lived.

Note: Since this was written Reuben has had a bout with walking pneumonia but is recovering well. He was able to attend his birthday party where at least 150 friends and relatives enjoyed the occasion with him. The City of Fairhope's mayor proclaimed it Reuben Rockwell Day, the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation enacted a resolution of thanks and congratulations and a Memorial Centennial Brick will be placed in the sidewalk in downtown Fairhope which is celebrating its centennial in 1994.

Reuben is now in the Eastern Shore Health Care Center in Fairhope where he will continue to recover. The address is: 108 South Church Street, Fairhope, AL 36532, if anyone would care to write.\* He has very much enjoyed all of the cards he has received.

The above was compiled by Reuben's daughter-in-law, RUTH (BATTEY) ROCKWELL '37 and widow of his son Lucier.



Seated, l-r: Lucier Rockwell, David Rockwell, Reuben Rockwell, Edna R. Harris.  
Standing, l-r: Oliver Rockwell, Michael Rockwell, Vance Rockwell.

\* \* \* \* \*

To Reuben Rockwell, our amazing neighbor:

Reuben Rockwell carried mail, way town in Alabama;  
He drove a little Austin car, with mail most every day,  
Or else a nifty Chevy car, a yellow one at that,  
And now and then a flat bed truck, when mail load got too fat.

He was a clever engineer, way back in movie days,  
He ran projector now and then and helped in many ways  
To teach his sons to build a car a neighbor boy could ride,  
Bicycle wheels and Maytag power they taught me how to guide.

His most impressive fete to date at 100 years of age,  
Was to move the Malbis power plant to Costa Rica's sage,  
A Pelton wheel in Guacimal gave it the proper spin  
To light the bulbs on mountainsides - it was a Reuben win.

A friendly man, a Quaker gent - an Olney student, too,  
He loves his fellow man sincere, was always brave and  
true.

So here's to Reuben Rockwell at One Hundred Years of  
age,

A friend to all who knew him - a gentle Quaker sage.

(By a one-time neighbor boy, Ray Stanley 10-23-1993).

## Class Reports

### TEN YEAR CLASS - 1983

#### IRENE STRATTON TAIT

Everyone always writes that they can't believe that it has been 10 (or however many) years, but. . . I can't believe it has been 10 years.

Following graduation from Olney the next four years of my life were spent at The Ohio State University in pursuit of a B.S. in Allied Medical Professions with a specialty in occupational therapy. I then went to The University of Michigan to complete my internship on the burn intensive care unit - the burn unit was never fun but it certainly was an important time to grow and realize how fortunate most of us are. Realizing that I really was a true buckeye, I moved back to Columbus and took a staff position at the Heinzerling Foundation, a residential facility for profoundly mentally retarded children. I stayed at the Foundation until this past October when I took a position with the public school system working with multi-handicap students.

In June 1990 I married Tom Tait, an OSU football buddy, following an eventful courtship. We purchased a new home that same year and now are eternally in debt-guess that's the American way. We made an addition to the family in the spring of '92. Babies??? No thanks-we opted for a large blue eyed husky who demands more attention than any child ever could. I find myself pretty well settled into a routine with work, graduate school and a few random leisure sports. I wonder if I'll be any more exciting by our 25th reunion? We'd love to hear from those of you in the Columbus area. Address: 2573 Breathstone Dr., Powell, OH 43065; phone: 614-792-2311.

#### UTE KLINGHAMMER

After finishing up the 12th and 13th grades in Germany, I had one year until I could start my nursing education. During that time I worked for five months in a village for mentally retarded people near Haifa in Israel. Then I spent four years in "my" town, Hannover, as a nursing student and nurse before I moved to a little village called "Wilhelmsdorf" in the very south of Germany, 750km from Hannover, 30km from the Swiss border. The reason? A man. The man has changed but the village remains the same!

For almost three years I have been working in a house for mentally retarded grownups in the same village where I live. I am very happy with this work, but once in a while I need a break just like I took from February to April. I went to Russia, studied Russian in St. Petersburg for a month and travelled afterwards - a very, very interesting time. As you might have figured, travelling is the best thing in life for me besides folkdancing, mostly in France, as well as bicycle touring for several weeks in summer. I am enjoying life very much!

If you are interested in what happened to my sister, Antje (x'84) and to Birgit Schwebsch ('84), they are both finished studying "socialwork." Birgit is living in Fleusburg, near the Danish border and Antje is still living nearby Hannover. Both are as well not married yet.

Hope you had a nice reunion. Maybe I'll be with you next time. Address: Hoffmannstr. 30, 8827 Wilhelmsdorf, Germany.

#### SARA SMITH

The other day I was going through some boxes of old stuff and I found a lot of Olney things - papers I had written and evaluations from various teachers. It was pretty interesting to read my thoughts about myself then and others' thoughts about me (GREG TJOSSEM hon. said that I was disruptive in biology class. Can you imagine!?) and to compare that to where I am "in my head" ten years later.

Time certainly has not stood still for a second. In some ways it is shocking to realize that nearly ten years has passed since my graduation day, but for the most part I enjoy growing older. I feel that I become more myself every year. I do welcome the chance to reflect back on the events that have shaped who I have become since leaving the pearly gates on that faraway June day.