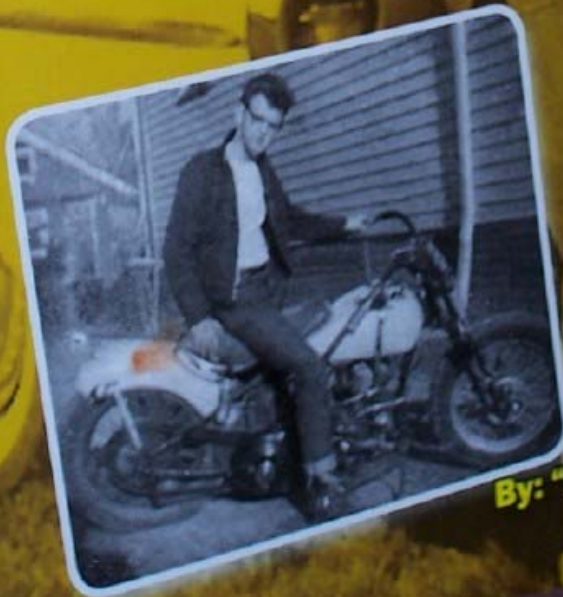


REMEMBER WHEN?

**Growing Up
in the 50's
in Cleveland Ohio**



By: "Bugs" Williams

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REMEMBER WHEN is written by an old friend of mine who grew up in the John Marshall school area. I think it is a gas to read and I think all of our classmates and their kids would enjoy.
Frank Gaal

Ordered from: Grand Pacific Junction
8080 Colombia Rd.
Olmsted Falls OH. 441348
PH 440-235-7323
Fax 440-235-1627

THE HISTORY OF PARMA: A TOWNSHIP, A VILLAGE, A CITY, Ernest R. Kubasek (author and publisher), 1976. The book covers prehistoric/Indian history too. I didn't realize Cleveland was the "capitol" of the Erie nation. Of course most familiar is the growth of Parma through the mid 1970s when Pearl Road (the future Parma Hts.) was really the center of "Parma." There are many photographs and considerable information. I would recommend it for anyone interested to obtain a copy from a Library.
Tim Wright

THE BEST KEPT SECRETS OF PARMA by Robert Horley.

Parma, A Garden City

The Garden City concept originated in England in the late 1800's. The garden cities of tomorrow would have green parks, comfortable homes and recreation centers, including golf courses. Shaker Heights, Ohio developed by the Van Sweringen brothers, was laid out with this concept in mind, as was Parma, Ohio.

Parma is not a 1920's concept. It was originally part of Parma Township, created in 1826. The first settlers were the Benaiah Fay family from New York State, who settled along the Cleveland-Columbus Road, Route 42 and Pearl Road to us, in 1816. The name was taken from Parma, New York, where it was probably derived from the early-19th century fascination with classical Italy. During the 19th century, Parma remained largely agricultural. In 1912, a portion of the township seceded to form the village of Parma Heights. In 1924, Parma was incorporated as a village, and in 1926 it adopted the mayor-council form of government.

Howard A. Stahl was a real-estate developer in Parma in the 1920's and laid out Parma Circle, which he intended to develop into an exclusive community. This area extends from West 54th St. to Westminster Dr., from Ridgewood Drive to just short of Snow Rd. He purchased the land and laid out an extensive street plan for the township and village. The early homes that were built were large brick and frame homes similar to what you see in Shaker Heights today. His plans included a golf course (Ridgewood Country Club) large lakes (one was called the Upper Ridgewood Lake, now just Ridgewood Lake), parks and winding roads, all typical of a Garden City community. The Stahl Properties Company also developed Cleveland Heights, Florida (now Lakeland) and a summer Garden Resort in North Madison, Ohio, Madison Golf Lakelands. From a Stahl brochure it is written; "The Stahl Company also owns Ridgewood, a new home and recreational development in Cleveland, covering 1250 acres with playgrounds, lakes, an eighteen hole golf course and every modern improvement. Over two-thirds of Ridgewood's 7000 lots were already sold."

Stahl lived in Shaker Heights, near the Van Sweringens, and they were most likely friends or at the least acquainted with each other. Parma shares many street names with Shaker Heights; Southington, Dartmoor, Canterbury, Stratford, Coventry, Oxford, Torrington, and many more. The source for those names used in Shaker was from a Garden City Directories of England.

Stahl's Garden City of Parma was in its infant stage when the Depression hit. Stahl lost everything in the Depression and died a short time later of heart failure, but he had set Parma on a course that led the community into future growth. In 1931 a proposition to annex it to the city of Cleveland was defeated, and Parma became a city. Parma's tremendous growth came after World War II as young families began moving from Cleveland into the Suburbs. This 1950's development was done on H.A. Stahl's streets. Source acknowledgement: "The Best Kept Secrets of Parma" by Robert Horley. Apparently it is no longer in print.

Contact the Parma Area Historical Society or Chamber of Commerce.