

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received MAR 31 1982  
date entered

## 1. Name

historic Valley Dale Ballroom

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 1590 Sunbury Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Columbus \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 12th

state Ohio \_\_\_\_\_ code 039 \_\_\_\_\_ county Franklin \_\_\_\_\_ code 049

## 3. Classification

|                                                 |                                             |                                                      |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Ownership</b>                            | <b>Status</b>                                        | <b>Present Use</b>                                |
| ____ district                                   | ____ public                                 | ____ occupied                                        | ____ agriculture                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | ____ unoccupied                                      | ____ commercial                                   |
| ____ structure                                  | ____ both                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress | ____ educational                                  |
| ____ site                                       | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| ____ object                                     | ____ in process                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted  | ____ government                                   |
|                                                 | ____ being considered                       | ____ yes: unrestricted                               | ____ industrial                                   |
|                                                 | NA                                          | ____ no                                              | ____ military                                     |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                      | ____ other:                                       |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Michael G. Peppe

street & number 2000 West Henderson Road

city, town Columbus \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Ohio

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Administration Building

street & number 410 South High Street

city, town Columbus \_\_\_\_\_ state Ohio

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_ yes ☒ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Valley Dale is located on a half-circle five-acre site bounded by a semi-circular levee and Sunbury Road. The site includes the dancehall, outdoor garden dancing platform, and gravel and grass parking areas.

Valley Dale Ballroom is a large rectangular wooden frame structure composed of a two-story central block topped by a low arched roofline that is flanked by identical narrow side wings with hipped rooflines. A small rectangular concrete block addition of unknown age is located at the northeast corner. The building was originally covered with horizontal wooden siding, but in 1941 the facade and side elevations were covered with permastone. During this remodeling the original first floor level vestibule near the center of the facade was removed and a stairs added at the southeast corner for entering at the second floor level. A number of the windows were covered by the permastone on the facade and replaced by two circular openings. Three small evergreen trees were planted in place of the vestibule, and now are approximately 40' tall.

The outdoor garden-dance area is a large rectangular pad of concrete. Originally it had a wooden oriental fence around the perimeter and an elevated wooden bandstand, but these features have been removed. Restoration plans call for their reconstruction.

The interior of the Ballroom is divided into two levels: a dancefloor level and a partial mezzanine level around three sides. The main entrance is at the mezzanine level. A solid railing with padded vinyl panels is placed around the mezzanine. A padded vinyl semi-circular bar is located on the southern wall of the mezzanine and has a curved enamel backboard behind it. Double two-tiered stairways descend to the dancefloor. At the northern end of the dancefloor is the stage flanked by curved recording booths for the CBS and MBS national broadcasting originally done from the hall. The wooden rafters and trusses which support the roof are exposed on the interior. To the right of the stage a small stairs leads to a room behind the stage where there are three wooden bars with architectural bronze countertops.



## 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below   |                                                 |                                                 |                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music       | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                              |
|                                           |                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |                                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)<br>Entertainment |

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**Specific dates**    1925, 1941                      **Builder/Architect**    1925-Elford Inc.            1941-Richard Tulley

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Valley Dale is significant as one of the nationally renowned ballroom dancehalls of the "Big Band" musical era of the 1930s and 1940s. Although the main structure dates back to 1925, its present appearance represents a 1941 remodeling by the nationally known impresario Frank Daley who copied his famous Meadowbrook Ballroom in New Jersey. Many of the big bands of national reputation appeared at Valley Dale since the late 1920s, but it was during the early 1940s that CBS and NBC (then Mutual Broadcasting System) had simultaneous coast-to-coast radio broadcasting from the stage. Valley Dale remains as one of the last few great American ballrooms still in existence from this era that retains its interior and exterior furnishings and design.

The first Valley Dale opened in 1918 and burned to the ground in an unfortunate New Year's Eve fire of 1923. Rebuilt in 1924-25 and remodeled in 1941, Valley Dale has hosted many of the name bands during its long history. Included among these entertainers were: Rudy Valee; Les Brown; Glenn Miller; Artie Shaw; Paul Whiteman; Guy Lombardo; Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman; Sammy Kaye; and Tommy Dorsey, along with important local musicians like Earl Hood, Chuck Selby, and Ronald Koal. The ballroom has a reputation of an excellent acoustical set-up. The Peppe family has owned and operated the ballroom since the late 1920s.

Valley Dale was threatened with condemnation by the City of Columbus in 1980, but an impressive ground swell of public support resulted in its rehabilitation and reopening in October 1981.

The "Big Band Era" is a period which has become immortalized in American history. It was of major importance during the first half of the 20th century, and is now generally recognized by musicologists as one of the primary American contributions to the international history of music. Although a large portion of Valley Dale's significance occurred less than 50 years ago, it has had a significant role in a segment of American history that transcends the age criteria of the National Register.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Columbus Dispatch and Columbus Citizen Journal articles from 1925-1980

Louis and Michael Peppe, owners  
interviews with Earl Hood and Ray Roop, Columbus musicians

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 5

Quadrangle name Northeast Columbus

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded on the west by Sunbury Road and on the other three sides by the interior edge of a semi-circular earthen levee.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| NA    |      |        |      |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Recchie/Preservation Officer

organization Columbus Landmarks Foundation

date 8/80

street & number 22 North Front Street

telephone 614/221-0227

city or town Columbus

state Ohio

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

W. Ray Luce

title

SHPO

date

2/19/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Valley Dale Ballroom

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 1590 Sunbury Road not for publication

city, town Columbus vicinity of congressional district 12th

state Ohio code 039 county Franklin code 049

## 3. Classification

| Category                                        | Ownership                                   | Status                                               | Present Use                                       |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied                    | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture              | <input type="checkbox"/> museum            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                  | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial               | <input type="checkbox"/> park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational              | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted  | <input type="checkbox"/> government               | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific        |
|                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted           | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial               | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation    |
|                                                 | NA                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> no                          | <input type="checkbox"/> military                 | <input type="checkbox"/> other:            |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Michael G. Peppe

street & number 2000 West Henderson Road

city, town Columbus vicinity of state Ohio 43220

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Administration Building

street & number 410 South High Street

city, town Columbus state Ohio

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

|                                          |                                       |                                             |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                             |                                                   |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Valley Dale is located on a half-circle five-acre site bounded by a semi-circular levee and Sunbury Road. The site includes the dancehall, outdoor garden dancing platform, and gravel and grass parking areas.

Valley Dale Ballroom is a large rectangular wooden frame structure composed of a two-story central block topped by a low arched roofline that is flanked by identical narrow side wings with hipped rooflines. A small rectangular concrete block addition of unknown age is located at the northeast corner. The building was originally covered with horizontal wooden siding, but in 1941 the facade and side elevations were covered with permastone. During this remodeling the original first floor level vestibule near the center of the facade was removed and a stairs added at the south-east corner for entering at the second floor level. A number of the windows were covered by the permastone on the facade and replaced by two circular openings. Three small evergreen trees were planted in place of the vestibule, and now are approximately 40' tall.

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The interior of the Ballroom is divided into two levels: a dancefloor level and a partial mezzanine level around three sides. The main entrance is at the mezzanine level. A solid railing with padded vinyl panels is placed around the mezzanine. A padded vinyl semi-circular bar is located on the southern wall of the mezzanine and has a curved enamel backboard behind it. Double two-tiered stairways descend to the dancefloor. At the northern end of the dancefloor is the stage flanked by curved recording booths for the CBS and MBS national broadcasting originally done from the hall. The wooden rafters and trusses which support the roof are exposed on the interior. To the right of the stage a small stairs leads to a room behind the stage where there are three wooden bars with architectural bronze countertops.



## 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below   |                                                 |                                                 |                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699        | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music       | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                              |
|                                           |                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |                                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)<br>Entertainment |

**Specific dates** 1925, 1941 **Builder/Architect** 1925-Elford Inc. 1941-Richard Tulley

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Valley Dale is significant as one of the nationally renowned ballroom dancehalls of the "Big Band" musical era of the 1930s and 1940s. Although the main structure dates back to 1925, its present appearance represents a 1941 remodeling by the nationally known impresario Frank Daley who copied his famous Meadowbrook Ballroom in New Jersey. Many of the big bands of national reputation appeared at Valley Dale since the late 1920s, but it was during the early 1940s that CBS and NBC (then Mutual Broadcasting System) had simultaneous coast-to-coast radio broadcasting from the stage. Valley Dale remains as one of the last few great American ballrooms still in existence from this era that retains its interior and exterior furnishings and design.

The first Valley Dale opened in 1918 and burned to the ground in an unfortunate New Year's Eve fire of 1923. Rebuilt in 1924-25 and remodeled in 1941, Valley Dale has hosted many of the name bands during its long history. Included among these entertainers were: Rudy Valee; Les Brown; Glenn Miller; Artie Shaw; Paul Whiteman; Guy Lombardo; Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman; Sammy Kaye; and Tommy Dorsey, along with important local musicians like Earl Hood, Chuck Selby, and Ronald Koal. The ballroom has a reputation of an excellent acoustical set-up. The Peppe family has owned and operated the ballroom since the late 1920s.

Valley Dale was threatened with condemnation by the City of Columbus in 1980, but an impressive ground swell of public support resulted in its rehabilitation and reopening in October 1981.

The "Big Band Era" is a period which has become immortalized in American history. It was of major importance during the first half of the 20th century, and is now generally recognized by musicologists as one of the primary American contributions to the international history of music. Although a large portion of Valley Dale's significance occurred less than 50 years ago, it has had a significant role in a segment of American history that transcends the age criteria of the National Register.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Columbus Dispatch and Columbus Citizen Journal articles from 1925-1980

Louis and Michael Peppe, owners  
interviews with Earl Hood and Ray Roop, Columbus musicians

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 5

Quadrangle name Northeast Columbus

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded on the west by Sunbury Road and on the other three sides by the interior edge of a semi-circular earthen levee.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| NA    |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Recchie/Preservation Officer

organization Columbus Landmarks Foundation

date 8/80

street & number 22 North Front Street

telephone 614/221-0227

city or town Columbus

state Ohio

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

W. Ray Luce

title

SHPO

date

2/19/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Ronnie L. Dougal

date

12/17/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Valley Dale Ballroom  
State, County: OH, Franklin  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 3/31/82-1018  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 4/29/82 - 5/15/82  
Action: ☐ ACCEPT ☒ RETURN 5/12/82  
☐ REJECT

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

photos ☒  
maps ☒

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: Built in 1925 and remodelled in 1941, this ballroom is associated w "Big Band" Era of musical entertainment. It gained national wide fame in 1940s when CBS + NBS (MBS) broadcasted from the site. 1941 remodeling was extensive - permarstone covering on exterior and apparently interior remodeling. Exceptional importance is discerned in terms of the National fame Valley Dale received in 1940s, its outstanding acoustical system and its being one of few remaining ballrooms of nat'l fame. The nomination doesn't provide many broad historical perspectives on big band era and ballrooms, but emphasizes local importance. Is this sufficient?

Recom. / Criteria Return  
Reviewer L. McDelland  
Discipline Arch. Hist  
Date 5/11/82  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below ☒ substantive reasons discussed below

### ✓ 1. Name

### ✓ 2. Location

### ✓ 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

### ✓ 4. Owner of Property

### ✓ 5. Location of Legal Description

### ✓ 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

### ✓ 7. Description

| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                              |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    | <input type="checkbox"/> date          |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☒ completeness  
☒ clarity  
☒ alterations/integrity  
☒ dates  
☒ boundary selection



## X 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_

Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ☒ summary paragraph
- ☒ completeness
- ☒ clarity
- ☒ applicable criteria
- ☒ justification of areas checked
- ☒ relating significance to the resource
- ☒ context
- ☒ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☒ justification of exception
- ☐ other

Please strengthen the statement of significance to justify the exceptional importance of the ballroom. Please address its role in <sup>national</sup> broadcasting of the 40s in relationship to other resources of this type that may or may not survive. Please establish the importance of this kind of resource in relationship to music of the 40s and early radio broadcasting (recorded or live). Is this resource unique or representative of the designs for musical/entertainment facilities of the 40s (interior and exterior)?

Note: 1941 remodeling appropriately determines period of significance that must be justified.

## ✓ 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

- ☒ Address of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## ✓ 11. Form Prepared By

## ✓ 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Site \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ✓ 13. Other

- ☒ Maps
- ☒ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Linda McClelland

Signed W. H. Brinkham

Date 5.12.82

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio  
Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

For NPS use only

received

date entered

The "Big Band" sound became a regular feature of American radio broadcasting beginning with Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians in the 1920s. The number of programs gradually expanded as the industry itself grew, so that by the early 1940s there were as many as ten "Big Band" programs broadcast nationally. The locations of all these broadcasts are unknown, but Valley Dale was one site where national bands like those on the enclosed list were heard during this time period and transmitted live across the country.

The survey work of Big Band ballrooms in the nation and the state of Ohio done for this nomination should not be considered comprehensive. It appears however that Valley Dale is an excellent example of early 20th century Ballroom architecture that generally included an arched or dome-like roof supported by exposed trusses. Furthermore an analysis of the other ballrooms listed in the resubmittal materials indicates the relative rarity of active, well preserved examples of this architecture. For these reasons we feel Valley Dale clearly warrants an exception to the 50 year criterion.

Source: Harrison Summers, ed., A Thirty-Year History of Programs Carried on National Radio Networks in the United States, 1926-1956. N.Y.: Arno Press, 1971.



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## Substantive Review

Valley Dale Ballroom  
OH, Franklin

Working No. 3.31.82-1018

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 12/17/82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal  
Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*After discussion with Chief of  
Registration, accept on the basis  
of exceptional significance*

Recom./Criteria A  
Reviewer War Dwyer  
Discipline A.H.  
Date 12/17/82  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

### 1. Name

### 2. Location

### 3. Classification

|          |                    |            |             |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

### 4. Owner of Property

### 5. Location of Legal Description

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

### 7. Description

|                                    |                                       |                                        |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    | <input type="checkbox"/> date          |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☒ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below \_\_\_\_\_

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ☒ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☒ justification of exception *yes*
- ☐ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 202 272 - 3500

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet





Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, ca. 1950  
View showing historic remodel-  
ing done in 1941





Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1981  
view showing double stairway  
from mezzanine level to dance  
floor

*Main Stairs from balcony  
Restored*



Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1980  
View showing western elevation





Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1980  
View showing eastern elevation







Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1980  
View showing rear or northern  
elevation



Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1980  
View of facade from south





Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1981  
View of double stairway from  
mezzanine to dance floor





Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1980  
View showing interior dance-  
floor prior to start of rehab



Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1981  
View showing wooden bar behind  
stage

Cocktail Bar  
Main Floor  
Restored





Mixed Drinks \*1.50

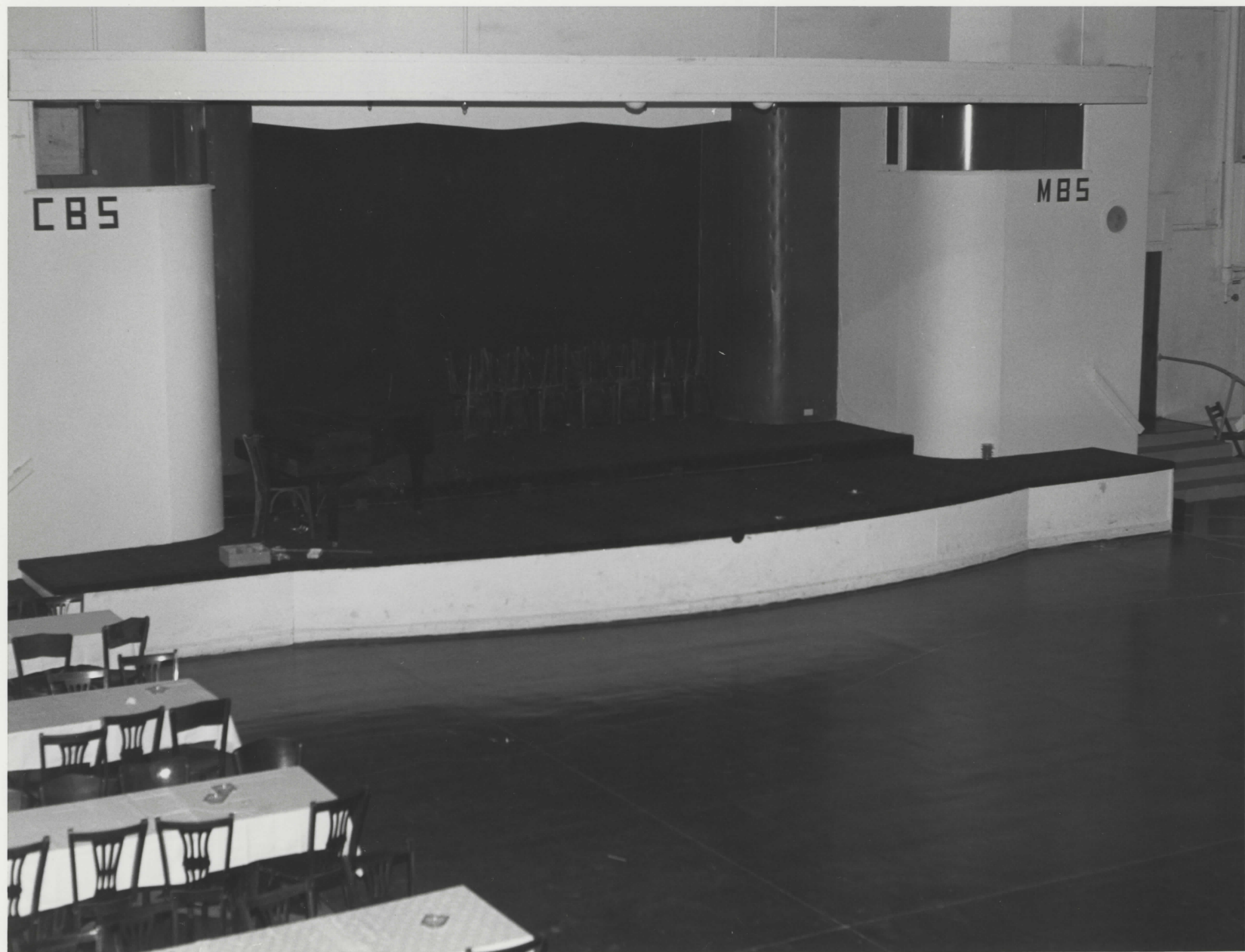
Almadén

Always The Perfect Season

Mixed Drinks \*1.50  
Wine (split) \*1.75  
Beer (can) \*1.00  
Pop (can) \* .75

RESTAURANT BALCONY COCKTAIL BAR

Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1981  
View showing padded vinyl bar  
at southern end of mezzanine.

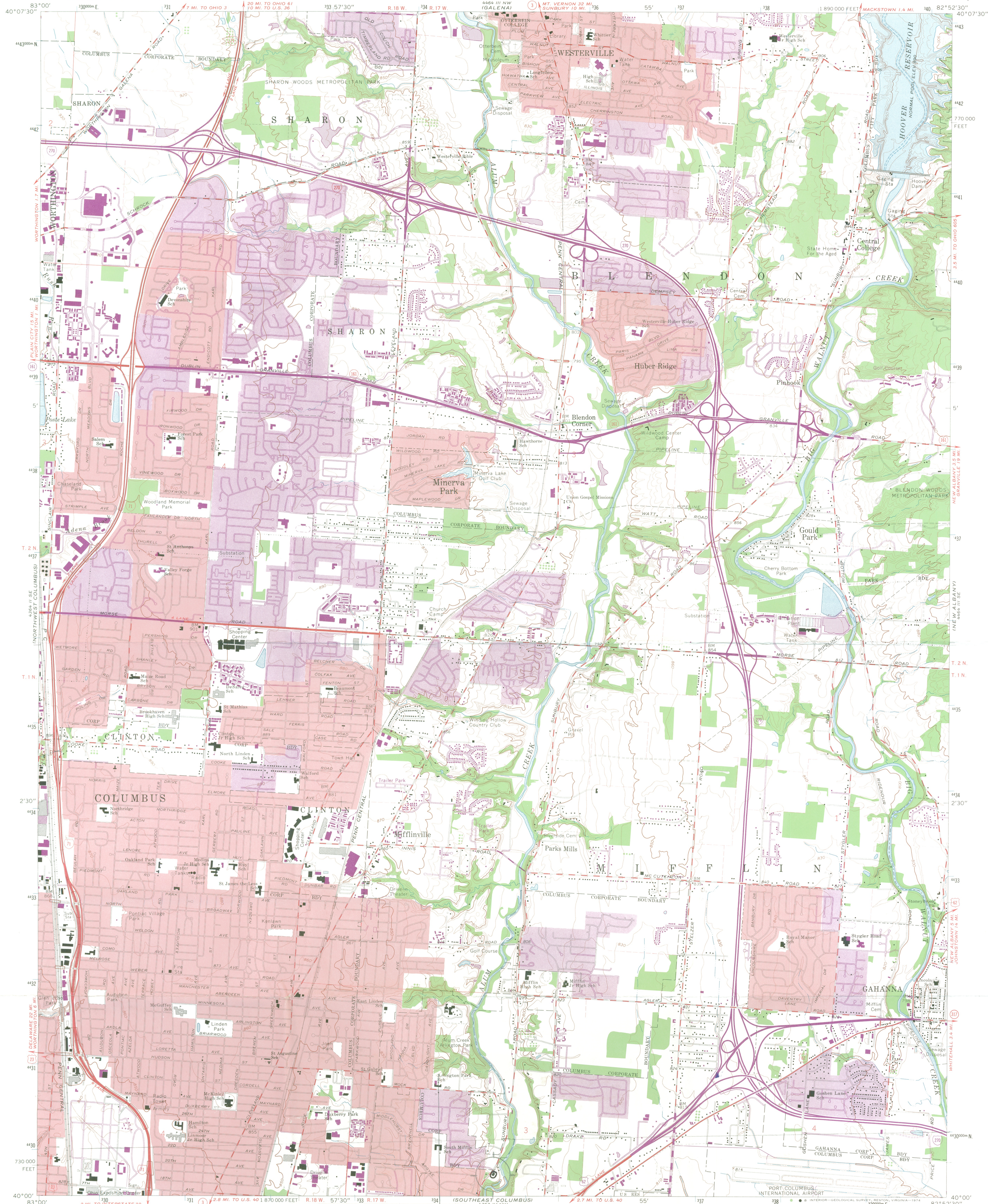




Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus,  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Photo: Mike Peppe, 1981  
View showing stage looking  
north

*Restored Bondo and*









TOM MOODY  
MAYOR

# CITY OF COLUMBUS OHIO

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 13, 1980

Mr. Dellas Harder  
Acting Ohio Historic Preservation Officer  
Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
Ohio Historical Center  
Interstate 71 and Seventeenth Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43211

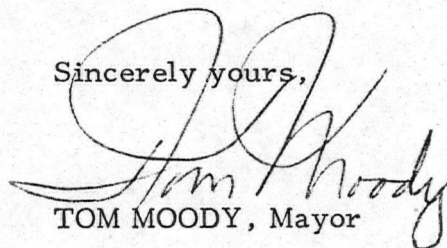
Dear Mr. Harder:

I am lending my full support to the application for Valley Dale Ballroom to the National Register of Historic Places.

Valley Dale has continuously operated as a ballroom in Columbus since 1918 and is one of the few remaining nationally known ballrooms in the country.

The "Dale" recalls many happy as well as romantic memories for many generations of Central Ohio citizens. It is currently being restored and I strongly feel that one of the most popular landmarks in Columbus should be added to the National Register.

Sincerely yours,



TOM MOODY, Mayor

TM: pm



# VALLEY DALE BALLROOM

1590 Sunbury Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219  
(614)258-7878

September 23, 1981

Ms. Judith Kitchen  
Mr. David Simmons  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Ohio Historical Center  
Interstate Route 71 & 17th Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43201

Re: Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus, Ohio  
Request for certification of  
completed rehabilitation work

Dear Ms. Kitchen & Mr. Simmons:

Enclosed are articles and photographs with both exterior and interior views of completed work and historic photos for your review of Valley Dale Ballroom as a "Certified historic structure".

I would like to take this opportunity to specifically respond to the questions pertaining to the remodeling of Valley Dale Ballroom in 1940-1941. (Three articles are enclosed that pertain to this remodeling). Prior to the time of remodeling Valley Dale had wood siding. When Frank Daily leased the Dale and remodeled it to match his Meadowbrook Ballroom in New Jersey, the present permastone exterior was installed and has been the exterior surface for 40-41 years. The present building was constructed in 1923-1924 after the original building burned in 1922. There has been continuous dancing on the site since 1918.

We feel removal of the permastone exterior, which has been the exterior surface for 40 out of 58 years of the present buildings existence is not in keeping with sound restoration and would create an undue economic hardship.

The prime historic significance of Valley Dale is as host to most of the "BIG BAND ERA" entertainers and musicians (see enclosed musician list) and its nationally known reputation for simultaneous coast to coast radio broadcasts by NBC and CBS of many of those performers. We have faithfully restored the building architecturally and feel the permastone exterior is a integral part of this restoration.

# VALLEY DALE BALLROOM

1590 Sunbury Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219  
(614)258-7878

Ms. Kitchen & Mr. Simmons

Page 2

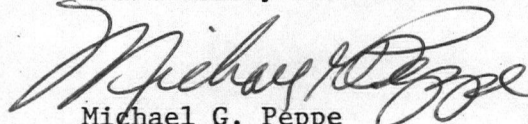
September 23, 1981

It is my hope that the enclosed information and photographs of the restored building will help in our application for nomination of Valley Dale Ballroom to the National Register of Historic Places.

If additional information is needed please contact me at (614) 457-6650.

Sincerely yours,

THE ARLINGTON COMPANY  
d/b/a Valley Dale Ballroom

  
Michael G. Peppe  
President

MGP/dah

Enclosures



DATE

5/18/82

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM  
PM

1. CALL ☐ TO: ☒ FROM (Name)

Ray Luce

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Ohio SHPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

1925 - ball room

Valleydale

1941 - remodeled

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

remodelling — what changed —

he feels it the form demonstrated exceptional  
significance; also, they believe the property  
may not be that bad (alteration, etc)

This got a PDIL.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

DUBIE

**VALLEY DALE**  
1590 SUNBURY RD. 43219  
258-7878

MARY MAX STANTS  
PROMOTION DIRECTOR  
263-8487

AVAILABLE FOR  
DANCES / PRIVATE PARTIES  
WEDDING RECEPTIONS  
BUSINESS MEETINGS

*This history has been collected through talking to James J. Killilea and Louis J. Peppe.*

*Jim Killilea has never lived further than three miles away from Valley Dale in all his life. For the major part of his adult life.... (from 1925 until his retirement), he has been closely affiliated with, and has worked at Valley Dale as did his older brother. He is still a very close friend of Louis J. Peppe, owner of Valley Dale.*

*The Peppe Boy's (Jim and Lou) have been affiliated with promotion and dance hall management in Columbus Ohio since the 1920's. They worked at and managed Valley Dale even before leasing and then buying the ballroom.*

*Earl Hood and Ray Poop, Columbus musicians who played through the early years at Valley Dale, have been very helpful in recalling dates and events at the Dale to help fill in our history line.*



MARY MAX STANTS  
PROMOTION DIRECTOR  
263-8487

AVAILABLE FOR  
DANCES / PRIVATE PARTIES  
WEDDING RECEPTIONS  
BUSINESS MEETINGS

## VALLEY DALE.....STORY

### \*Early 1800's

There was originally an old Inn and Stagecoach stop located on Sunbury Road. At this time Sunbury Road was a toll road, with the toll-gate located at Johnstown Road (where the Dominican College stands today). Farmers from the North brought their produce to be sold at East or Central Markets. Being too late to make the trip home at the end of the day, they stopped at the Inn overnight and then continued on their way home in the morning.

### 1900's

1918.....building on the present site was converted into a ballroom and was named Valley Dale

1923.....Valley Dale burned down to the ground on New Year's Eve at 8:00 in the evening. \*\* Clement Alspach played at the Dale in the year 1923 with the Robert Royce Orchestra. This Orchestra was to play for the New Year's Eve dance. Alspach had taken his trombone home and when he returned for the dance he saw Valley Dale in flames. The building burned clear to the ground and many of the band members lost their instruments. The area around the dance floor was leveled and shrubs and other plantings were put around the dance floor. Dancing continued here until the new building was built. It was called Valley Dale Sunken Gardens at this time.

---

\* Told to Jim Killilea by farmer Aton Zimmerman

\*\* Oral Statement from Clement Alspach, musician with Robert Royce's Orch.

**VALLEY DALE**  
1590 SUNBURY RD. 43219  
258-7878

MARY MAX STANTS  
PROMOTION DIRECTOR  
263-8487

AVAILABLE FOR  
DANCES / PRIVATE PARTIES  
WEDDING RECEPTIONS  
BUSINESS MEETINGS

1924.....Jules Melacon and his partner Harold Elford, operating as the Valley Dale Company, built the building that is still being used today. Elford ~~and son~~<sup>INC.</sup> were the designer and contractor. The wooden dance floor was anchored under the band stand. This floor would rise and fall with the flood waters from Alum Creek. This beautiful wooden dance floor was never under water as a result of this unusual planning.

\*1925.....Valley Dale Co. sold out to Metro Amusement Co. The outdoor dance garden was opened. At this early date well known bands were appearing at the Dale, long before the era of the BIG BANDS. There was also a succession of house bands, until 1934. Dick Fidler, Allen Hale, Paul Becker and Robert Royce. These bands shared the band stand with many well known names of the decade such as McKinney's Cotton Pickers, Ben Pollack, Don Bestor, Don Redman, Rudy Vallee, Ben Benney, Fred Harting, Paul Whiteman, Isham Jones (later taken over by Woody Herman) as well as Cab Calloway, to name a few were entertaining Columbus dancers at this grand old ballroom.

1927.....Jimmy Peppe hired as manager of Valley Dale. Lou Peppe was working at the Dale while getting his degree from OSU.

\*\* 1931.....Ray Kyser spent three months at Valley Dale Ballroom.

1932.....The Peppe's leased Valley Dale with the option to buy.

1935.....The well known local band of Earl Hood became the house band.....

This band remained at Valley Dale until New Year's Eve of 1950, at which time it retired. During these years the Hood Band shared the band stand with the great sound of the BIG BANDS.

1938.....The Peppe's bought Valley Dale. Lou Peppe managed the Dale from 1935 until 1951.

---

\* Oral Statements: Earl Hood, Jim Killilea and Lou Peppe

\*\* Oral Statement from this date on: Ray Roop, Col. musician who played at Valley Dale with the Dick Fidler Orch.



**VALLEY DALE**  
1590 SUNBURY RD. 43219  
258-7878

MARY MAX STANTS  
PROMOTION DIRECTOR  
263-8487

AVAILABLE FOR  
DANCES / PRIVATE PARTIES  
WEDDING RECEPTIONS  
BUSINESS MEETINGS

1941.....Frank Daley leased Valley Dale for one year. It was under his direction and management that Valley Dale was remodeled after the famed Meadowbrook in New Jersey (which Daley Owned) The remodeled Dale opened on Oct. 22 with Glen Gray. The architect for this was Dick Ashbaugh, who turned the job over to Dick Tulley. \* Valley Dale was his first commissioned job.....and a great one it was. At the end of Daley's lease, Lou Peppe again took over the management of the Dale. After the remodeling, both Q5 and MC were doing back to back broadcasting on a coast to coast hook-up. It was at this time that Valley Dale really hit it's stride as one of the great nationally known ballrooms. Most of the BIG B.M.S. played Valley Dale over and over again. It had a reputation (even to this day) of a most unusual and outstanding, acoustical set-up. The dance floor in this ballroom cannot be touched in any other ballroom in this, or surrounding states.

1946.....Lou Peppe became a member of the National Ballroom Operators Association in Chicago.

1951.....Chuck Selby took over as manager of Valley Dale and his band then became the house band. For many years the people of Columbus enjoyed dancing and listening to the music of this band.

1961.....The outdoor garden was closed.

1965.....At this time the Chuck Selby Dance Club was formed and operated out of Valley Dale. Many happy years of dancing followed for this group of people and their guests. The Dale was also available for varied musical and dancing groups.

---

\* Oral statement by Dick Tulley

**VALLEY DALE**  
1590 SUNBURY RD. 43219  
258-7878

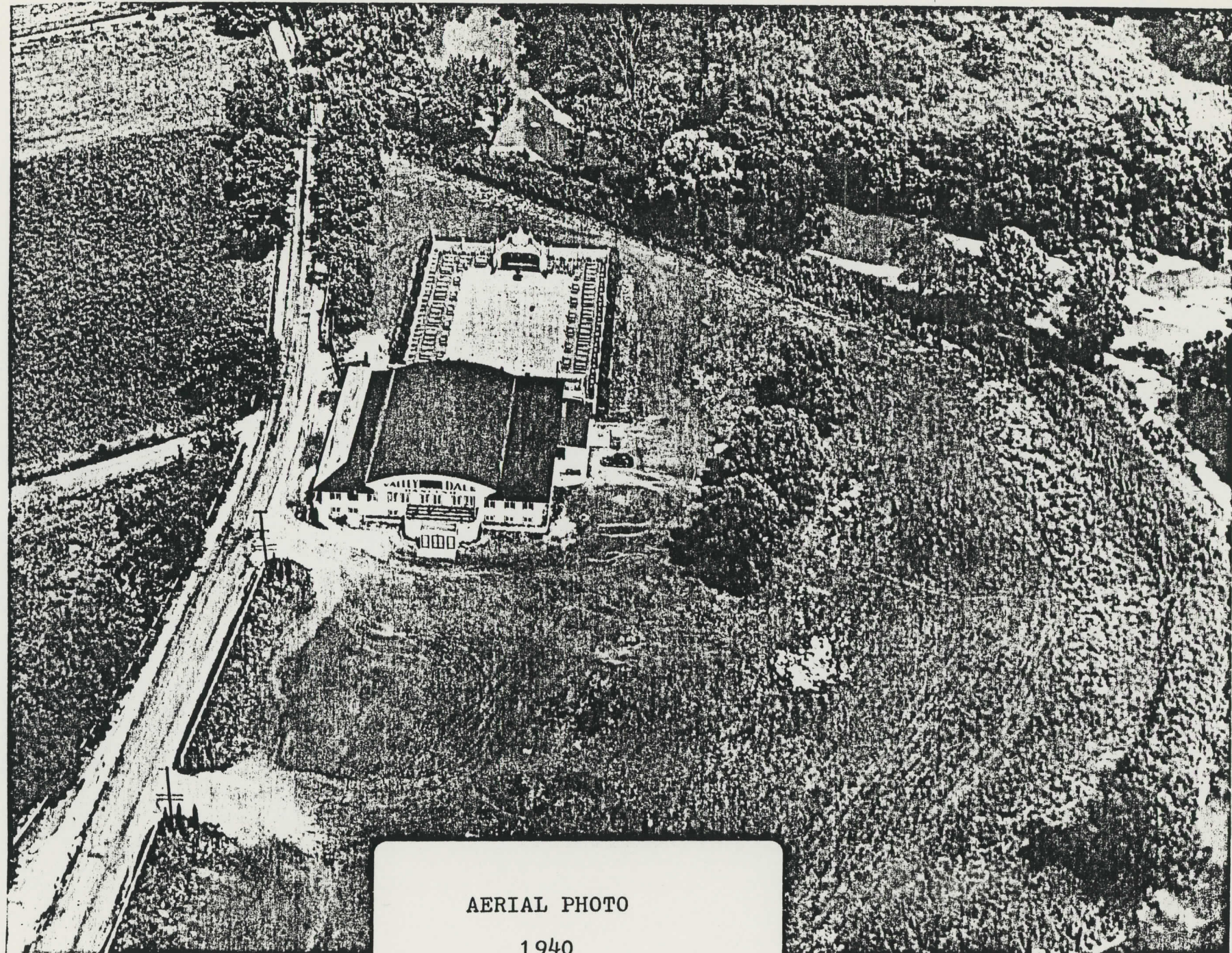
MARY MAX STANTS  
PROMOTION DIRECTOR  
263-8487

AVAILABLE FOR  
DANCES / PRIVATE PARTIES  
WEDDING RECEPTIONS  
BUSINESS MEETINGS

*Black Organizations in Columbus have been encouraged to rent the Dale for their many social and musical functions. They have always been welcomed here.*

*As near as can be determined Valley Dale is the last of the once famous national ballrooms to still be functioning as it was through all the years of continuous dancing since 1918, and in this particular building since 1924. In January of 1980 the City of Columbus closed Valley Dale on violation of building code. There was a great show of citizen support for the saving of this historic Columbus landmark. It was great news when this building was found to be structurally safe! And so it is with great joy that we have received the announcement that the Peppe's are going to restore this grand old historic ballroom for the dancing pleasure of all it's followers, the people of Columbus and for the future generations of dancers to come. This is truly a Columbus heritage!*





AERIAL PHOTO

1940



# Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

March 24, 1982

Ms. Carol Shull  
Acting Keeper  
National Register of  
Historic Places  
National Park Service  
440 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are 16 new National Register nominations and four resubmissions. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nominations and they have been approved by the state review board.

## New Nominations

## County

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Garst, John, House                | Ashland   |
| Kelly, O.S., Cottage and House    | Clark     |
| Valley Dale Ballroom              | Franklin  |
| Hulbert House and                 |           |
| McAlpin Bridal Cottage            | Hamilton  |
| Salem Methodist Church Complex    | Hamilton  |
| Grand Lake St. Marys Light House  | Mercer    |
| Denison, William, House           | Muskingum |
| Tavener-Sears Tavern              | Muskingum |
| Oak Grove School                  | Pickaway  |
| Crafts, William, House            | Portage   |
| Jackson Center Multiple           |           |
| Resource Area                     | Shelby    |
| Port Jefferson School             | Shelby    |
| Stewart, Harry Bartlett, Property | Stark     |
| Butler, Charles, House            | Warren    |
| Britton, James F., Farm           | Wayne     |
| Old Wayne County Jail             | Wayne     |
| Floral Hall                       | Wood      |

We are recommending that the Oak Grove School receive a substantive review because of its current condition.



Page two  
Ms. Carol Shull

Resubmissions

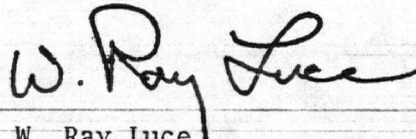
Crittenden Farm  
Hotel Breakers  
McCune's Villa  
Park Avenue West Multiple  
Resource Area

County

Ashland  
Erie  
Licking  
  
Richland

Please let me know if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "W. Ray Luce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "W." and last name "Luce" clearly legible.

W. Ray Luce  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/DAS:vb

DATE 5.25.82

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL 11:00

AM  
PM

1. CALL ☐ TO: ☒ FROM (Name)

RAY LUCE

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

OH SHPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

VALLEY DALE BALLROOM

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Issues

1. Alterations

- small addition + perma stone done in 1941  
exterior remains same otherwise
  - interior elements (decorative) do date to 1941  
but basic use of ballroom and sense of interior  
space is same
- Thus, configuration inside and outside is  
basically same since its origin.

2. Significance origin.

- Exceptional, locally
- Ray didn't feel they could provide  
national context.
- This property is clearly exceptional in  
Ray's opinion

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

McClelland

TITLE

ARCH. HIST.

OFFICE

NR



# Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

October 26, 1982

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief  
Department of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
440 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Carol:

Enclosed are twelve new National Register nominations and two resubmissions.  
All the appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new submissions.

## New Submissions

The Salem China Company  
Eight Black History Resources in Cleveland  
Sandusky Street Historic District  
Schlee-Kemmler Building  
Great Southern Hotel and Theatre  
Theodore Krumberg Building  
African Jackson Cemetery  
Commercial Building  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
St. Matthew's Protestant Episcopal Church  
St. Henry Roman Catholic Church  
Serquet, Emanuel and Frederick Farm

## County

Columbiana  
Cuyahoga  
Delaware  
Franklin  
Franklin  
Hamilton  
Miami  
Montgomery  
Muskingum  
Muskingum  
Noble  
Stark

## Resubmissions

Capital University Historic District  
✓ Valley Dale Ballroom

## County

Franklin  
Franklin

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

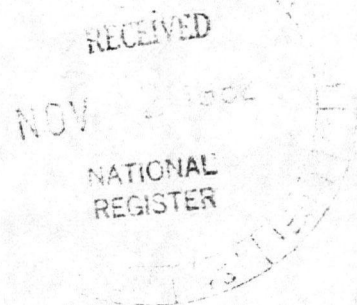
*W. Ray Luce*

W. Ray Luce  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL:BP:dd

Encl.

X.c: Regional Coordinators (5)



H32-710  
CL-06521

OCT 29 1982

Harrison  
MacDougal  
Stewart  
Rogers (draft)  
Gilley 10/29  
Whelan 10/29

Honorable Chalmers P. Wylie  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Wylie:

Thank you for your letter of October 6 to Mr. Stanley W. Hulett of this Department on behalf of Mr. Michael Peppe concerning the nomination of the Valley Dale Ballroom, Franklin County, Ohio, to the National Register of Historic Places.

We have been informed by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Officer's staff that a revised nomination form for the ballroom has been prepared incorporating Mr. Peppe's research, and that the nomination is being sent to the National Park Service. Our procedures for reviewing National Register nominations require that a decision be made on the eligibility of a property within 45 days of receipt of a complete and fully documented nomination. The National Park Service sends a weekly notice of new listings in the National Register to Members of Congress so you will be notified if the Valley Dale Ballroom is entered in the National Register.

We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

/Sgd/ Jerry L. Rogers

Associate  
Director

cc: Dr. W. Ray Luce  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
The Ohio Historical Society  
Interstate 71 at 17th Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43211 ) w/c of inc.

*CL) w/initial*  
bcc: 001-R.F. 004 700 710) 190-Gilley)  
FNP:SHarrison:272-3504:CL-06521:fw 9:10/29/82

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR (710)



CHALMERS P. WYLIE  
15TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2335 RAYBORN HOUSE  
OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2015

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
200 NORTH HIGH STREET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215  
TELEPHONE: (614) 469-5614

WALLER C. BLOOM  
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

October 6, 1982

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN  
AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPERVISION,  
REGULATION AND INSURANCE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
COMPENSATION, PENSION, AND INSURANCE  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

JOINT ECONOMIC

Mr. Stanley W. Hulett  
Assistant to the Secretary and Director  
of Congressional and Legislative Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
Room 6254  
18th and C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

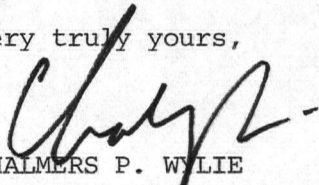
Dear Mr. Hulett:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter and substantiating documentation from one of my constituents, Mr. Michael Peppe, relative to his attempts to have the Valley Dale Ballroom in Columbus, Ohio placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As the letter is self-explanatory I will not elaborate, except to say that I would like to be helpful to Mr. Peppe if at all possible and if you could have someone look into the status of his application and provide me with a response that I may share with him, it would be sincerely appreciated.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration of my request.

Very truly yours,

  
CHALMERS P. WYLIE  
Representative to Congress

CPW/dn

Enclosure

Received in Congressional  
Liaison Division:

~~OCT 19 1982~~

OCT 25 1982

DEPT. OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

82 OCT 22 A9: 02

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: 10/22/82

RE: [Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Washington, D.C. 20250

10/22/82  
[Illegible text]



# VALLEY DALE BALLROOM

1590 Sunbury Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219  
(614)258-7878

6011 1982

Mr. David A. Simmons, Historian  
Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
I-71 & 17th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43211

Re: Valley Dale's Application  
to the National Register  
of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Simmons:

I will attempt to respond thru you to the written comments apparently made by Ms. Linda McClelland concerning the "Statement of Significance" of Valley Dale's application for the National Register of Historic Places. (Copy enclosed.)

Since the initiation of the application to the National Register for Valley Dale, it has been my contention that the historic significance is primarily found in the entertainers and musicians who worked at Valley Dale. National recognition of Valley Dale was achieved during the 1930's and 1940's as the broadcasting location of coast to coast radio programming of live entertainment.

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I have enclosed an updated and verified list (Encl.#1) of the entertainers who have appeared at Valley Dale. This list addresses the concern which stated, "Nomination doesn't provide any broad national perspective on the big band era and ballrooms."

As an example of this significant national perspective, the following entertainers and bands got a significant start and or began their careers at Valley Dale: The Mills Brothers, Sammy Kaye, Kay Kaiser and Les Brown.

As I attempted to locate other ballrooms in order to make this response (copy of ballroom operators (Encl.#2) it has been increasingly clear that very few ballrooms survive today.

I do feel it is significant that Valley Dale became nationally known during this time period by booking the finest entertainment and the subsequent simultaneous radio broadcasts of these entertainers by CBS and NBC radio networks.

It is also significant that my obviously limited research on a national basis has uncovered very few ballrooms that are still in existence and even fewer that have played the nationally known entertainers, that are separately listed with this letter.

In my initial presentation, I discussed the fact that the 1941 remodeling was designed to emulate the famous Meadowbrook Ballroom in New Jersey, which incidentally is no longer operated as a ballroom. The original design and the 1941 remodel incorporated the exposed bow truss vaulted ceiling which was a standard design for acoustical and construction purposes in ballroom designs. This vaulted, exposed beam ceiling was returned in the restoration. Another good example of this type of ceiling can be found in what is now Big Bear Grocery Store #1, located on West Lane Avenue, across from the Ohio State University's St. John Basketball Arena in Columbus. This structure was originally the Silver Slipper Ballroom.

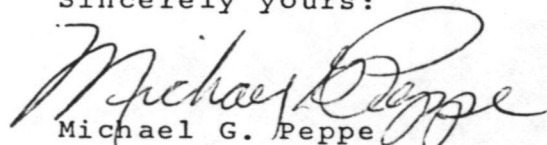
I apologize for this response taking longer than I anticipated but my research has gone very slowly.

David, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the staff for your cooperation and assistance over quite an extended period of time. Regardless of the outcome of the application to the National Register, I think Valley Dale has benefited through additional attention to construction detail and restoration research that I was able to accomplish.

I located a copy of an old radio broadcast from Valley Dale and I will furnish you a copy when it is available.

I hope that this additional information will satisfy Ms. McClelland's concerns.

Sincerely yours:

  
Michael G. Peppe  
Valley Dale Ballroom

cc: Congressman Chalmers Wylie's Office  
Attn: Mr. Waller Bloom



Property: Valley Dale Ballroom  
 State, County: OH, Franklin  
 Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 3/31/92-1018  
 Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Due: 4/29/82 - 5/15/82  
 Action: ACCEPT  
RETURN 5/12/82  
REJECT

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

photos ☒  
 maps ☒

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: Built in 1925 and remodelled in 1941, this ballroom is associated w/ "Big Band" era of musical entertainment. It gained nation-wide fame in 1940s when CBS + NBS (M) broadcasted from the site. 1941 remodeling was extensive - permastone covering on exterior and apparently interior remodeling. Exceptional importance is discussed in terms of the National fame Valley Dale received in 1940s, its outstanding acoustical system and its being one of few remaining ballrooms of that time. The nomination doesn't provide main ballroom historical perspective on "big band era" and ballrooms, but emphasizes local importance. Is this sufficient?

Recom. Criteria Return  
 Reviewer L. McCalland  
 Discipline Arch. Hist  
 Date 5/11/82 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below ☒ substantive reasons discussed below

# 1. Name

# 2. Location

# 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

# 4. Owner of Property

# 5. Location of Legal Description

# 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

# 7. Description

| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                              |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    | <input type="checkbox"/> date          |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☒ summary paragraph  
☒ completeness  
☒ clarity  
☒ alterations/integrity  
☒ dates  
☒ boundary selection

Mike Reppe  
 2000 West Henderson  
 618 630 3030

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Please strengthen the statement of significance to justify the exceptional importance of the ballroom. Please address its role in <sup>national</sup> broadcasting of the 40s in relationship to other resources of this type that may or may not survive. Please establish the importance of this kind of resource in relationship to music of the 40s and early radio broadcasting (recorded or live). Is this resource unique or representative of the designs for musical/entertainment facilities of the 40s (interior and exterior)?

Note: 1941 remodeling appropriately determines period of significance that must be justified.

- ☒ summary paragraph
- ☒ completeness
- ☒ clarity
- ☒ applicable criteria
- ☒ justification of areas checked
- ☒ relating significance to the resource
- ☒ context
- ☒ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☒ justification of exception
- ☐ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

☒ Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

☒ UST Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- ☒ Maps
- ☒ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Linda McClelland

Signed W.H. Brachman

Date 5-12-82

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



VALLEY DALE HONOR ROLL OF BIG BANDS & ENTERTAINERS

( Compiled from newspaper advertisements by Phil Sheridan')

|                           |                 |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Alvino Rey & King Sisters | Guy Lombardo    | Jan Garber            |
| Claude Hopkins            | Duke Ellington  | Anson Weeks           |
| Fletcher Henderson        | Ted Weems       | Will Osborne          |
| Les Brown                 | Benny Goodman   | Tommy Dorsey          |
| Jack Teagarden            | Jan Savitt      | Bunny Berigan         |
| Isham Jones               | Sammy Kaye      | Fats Waller           |
| Frankie Masters           | Red Norvo       | Jimmy Dorsey          |
| Ted Fio Rito              | Glenn Miller    | Bob Crosby            |
| Bob Chester               | Horace Heidt    | Henry Busse           |
| Ben Bernie                | Kay Kyser       | Vincent Lopez         |
| Earl "Father" Hines       | Cab Calloway    | Dick Stabile          |
| Artie Shaw                | Hal Kemp        | Glen Gray             |
| Shep Fields               | Russ Morgan     | Chales "Buddy" Rogers |
| Paul Whiteman             | Charlie Spivak  | Charlie Barnet        |
| Ina Ray Hutton            | Ben Pollack     | Jimmie Lunceford      |
| Bobby Byrne               | Al Donahue      | Tommy Tucker          |
| Sonny Dunham              | Bobby Sherwood  | Will Bradley          |
| Rudy Valee                | George Olsen    | Ink Spots             |
| Mills Brothers            | Perry Como      | Frank Sinatra         |
| Kenny Gardner             | Carmen Lombardo | Joe Williams          |
| Teddy Wilson              | Gene Krupa      | Jo Stafford           |
| Lional Hampton            | Woody Herman    | Don Cornell           |
| Tommy Ryan                | Mildred Bailey  | Ray Eberly            |
| Helen O'Connell           | Mike Douglas    | Betty Hutton          |

VALLEY DALE HONOR ROLL OF BIG BANDS, & ENTERTAINERS

|                             |                                                  |                  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Gracie Barrie               | Helen Forest                                     | Kenny Sargent    |
| Skinney Ennis               | Nan Wynn                                         | Doris Robbins    |
| Pee Wee Hunt                | Bing Crosby                                      | Bill Kenny       |
| George Hall                 | Dolly Dawn                                       | Ozzie Nelson     |
| Fred Warings-Pennsylvanians | McKinney's Cotton Pickers (Don Redman-took over) |                  |
| Harriet Hillard             | Red Nichols & 5 Pennies                          | Eddy Duchin      |
| Gus Arnheim                 | Ace Brigode                                      | Bernie Cummins   |
| Ray Pearl                   | Orrin Tucker                                     | Wee Bonnie Baker |
| Sammy Watkins               | Tommy Tucker                                     | Gracie Barrie    |
| Buddy Rogers                | Jack Teagraden                                   | Johnny Long      |
| Freddy Martin               | Muzzy Marcellino                                 | Jimmy Joy        |
| Herbie Kay                  | Dorothy Lamour                                   | Phil Harris      |
| Alice Faye                  | Hal Linden                                       | Helen Ward       |
| Bobby Hackett               | Harry James                                      | Abe Lyman        |
| Merv Griffin                | Dick Jurgens                                     | Art Kassel       |

And of course, Columbus' own Earl Hood Orchestra, the Dale's house band for many years.

\* Those bands listed are known to have played Valley Dale, many of them more than once. Others will be added when their appearances can be authenticated in black & white.



NATIONALLY KNOWN BALLROOMS

1920'S WAS THE BIGGEST BOON TO THE BIG BAND BUSINESS

BIG BAND ERA OF BALLROOMS BEGAN JUST PRIOR TO MID 1920'S

|          |                                                                                  |                   |      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------|
| (Closed) | Trianon Ballroom<br>(Auctioned 1952-Torn down)                                   | Chicago, IL       | 1922 |
| ( Open ) | Aragon Ballroom<br>(Closed 1964)<br>See article enclosed                         | Chicago, IL       | 1926 |
| (Closed) | Palomar Ballroom<br>(Was Rainbow Ballroom - Burned 1939)                         | Los Angeles, CA   |      |
| (Closed) | Palladium Ballroom                                                               | Hollywood, CA     |      |
| (Closed) | Glen Island Casino                                                               | New Rochelle, NY  | 1918 |
| (Closed) | Arcadia Ballroom                                                                 | Detroit, MI       | 1920 |
| (Closed) | Roseland Dance City                                                              | New York City, NY | 1918 |
| (Closed) | Meadowbrook Ballroom<br>(Discontinued dancing 1955)                              | Cedargrove, NJ    |      |
| (Closed) | Steel Pier Ballroom      A.K.A. Million Dollar Pier<br>Ballroom (Torn down 1982) | Atlantic City, NJ |      |
| (Closed) | Coconut Grove Ballroom                                                           | Los Angeles, CA   |      |
| (Closed) | Lakeside Ballroom                                                                | Denver, CO        |      |
| (Closed) | Rainbow Gardens Ballroom                                                         | Denver, CO        |      |
| ( Open ) | Coconut Grove Ballroom                                                           | Santa Cruse, CA   |      |
| ( Open ) | Elitch's Gardens<br>(Private, Summer only)                                       | Denver, CO        |      |
| (Closed) | Park Ballroom<br>(Closed early 1950's)                                           | Denver, CO        |      |
| (Closed) | Arcadia Ballroom                                                                 | Detroit, MI       | 1920 |
| (Closed) | Greystone Ballroom                                                               | Detroit, MI       | 1923 |
| (Closed) | Raymor Ballroom                                                                  | Boston, MA        |      |
| (Closed) | Savoy Ballroom                                                                   | New York City, NY |      |
| (Closed) | Aragon Ballroom                                                                  | Santa Monica, CA  |      |

VALLEY DALE HONOR ROLL OF BIG BANDS & ENTERTAINERS

1960'S ROCK GROUPS

Four Seasons

Rhoades Brothers

Impressions

Gene Chandler

Ruphis & Carla Thomas

Willie Mitchel

Nancy Wilson

Rusty Bryand

Bobbie Blue Bland

Chubby Checker

Ohio Express

Chuck Jackson

Otis Redding

Booker T & the M.G.'s

Al Green

Ike & Tina Turner

B.B.King

Isley Brothers



NATIONALLY KNOWN BALLROOMS

|          |                      |                     |      |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------|------|
| (Closed) | Venice Ballroom      | L.A. (area), CA     | 1920 |
| (Closed) | Plantation Ballroom  | L.A. (area), CA     | 1925 |
| ( Open ) | Avalon Ballroom      | Cataline Island, CA | 1935 |
| (Closed) | McFaddens Ballroom   | Oakland, CA         | 1935 |
| (Closed) | Birdland Ballroom    | New York City, N.Y. |      |
| ( Open ) | Starlight Ballroom   | Los Angeles, CA     |      |
| (Closed) | Casino Gardens       | Santa Monica, CA    |      |
| (Closed) | Dreamland Ballroom   | Chicago, IL         |      |
| (Closed) | Midway Gardens       | Chicago, IL         |      |
| ( OPEN ) | VALLEY DALE BALLROOM | COLUMBUS, OHIO      |      |

Stanley Dance: THE WORLD OF COUNT BASIE  
New York, Charles Scribner & Sons  
1980, pp. 97 - 99.

Betty Garrett: COLUMBUS - AMERICA'S CROSSROADS  
Tulsa, Continental Heritage Press Inc.  
1980, pp:120 - 121.

OHIO BALLROOMS

|          |                                                                          |                     |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| (Closed) | Rainbow Ballroom,                                                        | Fremont, Ohio       |
| (Closed) | Trianon Ballroom,                                                        | Toledo, Ohio        |
| (Closed) | Trianon Ballroom                                                         | Cleveland, Ohio     |
| ( Open ) | Columbia Ballroom                                                        | Strongsville, Ohio  |
| (Closed) | Castle Farm Ballroom                                                     | Cincinatti, Ohio    |
| ( Open ) | Springvale Ballroom                                                      | North Olmsted, Ohio |
| ( Open ) | Idora Park Ballroom                                                      | Youngstown, Ohio    |
| (Closed) | Forest Gables Ballroom                                                   | Dayton, Ohio        |
| (Closed) | Greenwich Village Ballroom                                               | Dayton, Ohio        |
| ( Open ) | Aragon Ballroom                                                          | Cleveland, Ohio     |
| (Closed) | Smith's Ballroom                                                         | Columbus, Ohio      |
| (Closed) | Olentangy Park Ballroom                                                  | Columbus, Ohio      |
| (Closed) | Indianola Park Ballroom                                                  | Columbus, Ohio      |
| (Closed) | Graystone Ballroom (Oak & 5th St.)                                       | Columbus, Ohio      |
| (Closed) | Greenmill Ballroom, (Fishinger & Scioto Rv.Rd.-                          | Columbus, Ohio      |
|          | St. Rt. 33)                                                              |                     |
| (Closed) | Silver Slipper Ballroom (Lane Ave. Columbus, Ohio & Olentangy River Rd.) |                     |
| (Closed) | Buckeye Lake Pier Ballroom                                               | Buckeye Lake, Ohio  |
| (Closed) | Crystal Ballroom                                                         | Buckeye Lake, Ohio  |
| (Closed) | Geauga Lake Ballroom                                                     | Geauga Lake, Ohio   |
| (Closed) | Spring Lakes Ballroom                                                    | Berwick, Ohio       |
| (Closed) | Russell's Point Ballroom                                                 | Indian Lake, Ohio   |
| ( Open ) | Cedar Point Ballroom (Infrequent-Summer only)                            | Sandusky, Ohio      |
| (Closed) | Ruggles Beach Ballroom                                                   | Vermillion, Ohio    |
| (Closed) | Gem Beach Ballroom                                                       | Catawba, Ohio       |



# Ballroom Operators

Ponderosa Ballroom  
Roaring 20's Ballroom  
Howells Ballroom  
Idora Park Ballroom  
Valleydale Ballroom  
The Cold Springs Resort  
Aragon Ballroom  
Teara Ballroom  
Melody Mill  
Hub Ballroom  
Tuxedo Junction  
Carousel Ballroom  
Surf Ballroom.  
Moose Lodge  
Wintergarden  
4 Seasons Ballroom  
Chandelier  
Ernie's Palace  
Kingsdale Recreation Center  
Omaha Center  
Elks Lodge  
Knights of Columbus  
Lindendale Park  
Matterip Ballroom  
Peony Park  
Coliseum  
Community Hall  
Lakewood Ballroom  
Medina Ballroom  
Coliseum Ballroom  
Electric Park  
Flying V Ballroom  
Fairyland Ballroom  
Scottish Rite Bldg.  
Dubuque Fairgrounds  
Orchard Inn  
Surf Ballroom  
Northfield Ballroom  
Bell-Rae Ballroom  
Two Rivers Festival at Nollen Plaza  
Val-Air Ballroom  
Fairyland Ballroom  
St. John's Activity Center  
Cotillion Ballroom

Walford, Iowa  
San Antonio, Texas  
Howells, Missouri  
Youngstown, Ohio  
Columbus, Ohio  
Hamilton, Indiana  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Bloomington, Illinois  
N. Riverside, Illinois  
Edelstein, Illinois  
Metropolis, Illinois  
Celina, Ohio  
Clearlake, Iowa  
Wichita, Kansas  
Dallas, Texas  
Dallas, Texas  
Houston, Texas  
El Reno, Oklahoma  
Bellavisto, Arkansas  
Cherokee Village, Arkansas  
Brookfield, Missouri  
Riverton, Illinois  
Highland, Illinois  
Decorah, Iowa  
Omaha, Nebraska  
Davenport, Iowa  
New Vienna, Iowa  
Lake View, Iowa  
Hamel, Minnesota  
Worthington, Minnesota  
Waterloo, Iowa  
Utica, Nebraska  
Long Grove, Iowa  
Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Dubuque, Iowa  
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Northfield, Minnesota  
Moundsview, Minnesota  
Des Moines, Iowa  
West Des Moines, Iowa  
Long Grove, Iowa  
Sherman, Ohio  
Wichita, Kansas

OHIO BALLROOMS

|          |                             |                          |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (Closed) | Erie Beach Ballroom         | Port Clinton, Ohio       |
| ( Open ) | Carousel Ballroom           | Celina, Ohio             |
| (Closed) | Geneva on the Lake Ballroom | Geneva on the Lake, Ohio |
| (Closed) | Myers Lake Ballroom         | Canton, Ohio             |
| (Closed) | Coney Island Ballroom       | Cincinatti, Ohio         |
| (Closed) | Crystal Ball Ballroom       | Versailles, Ohio         |
| (Closed) | Edgewater Park Ballroom     | Celina, Ohio             |



THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1982

---

## The Region

---

approved today by the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

The arrangement gives Island Casino Inc. a 10-year lease with an option to renew the agreement for 15 more years. Under the agreement, which the legislators approved by a 16-to-1 vote, Island Casino will spend as much as \$1.6 million to renovate the casino on the Long Island Sound in New Rochelle.

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### Big Band Club To Be Restored

WHITE PLAINS, Aug. 30 (AP) — The Glen Island Casino, a popular nightspot during the Big Band Era, will be restored under an agreement

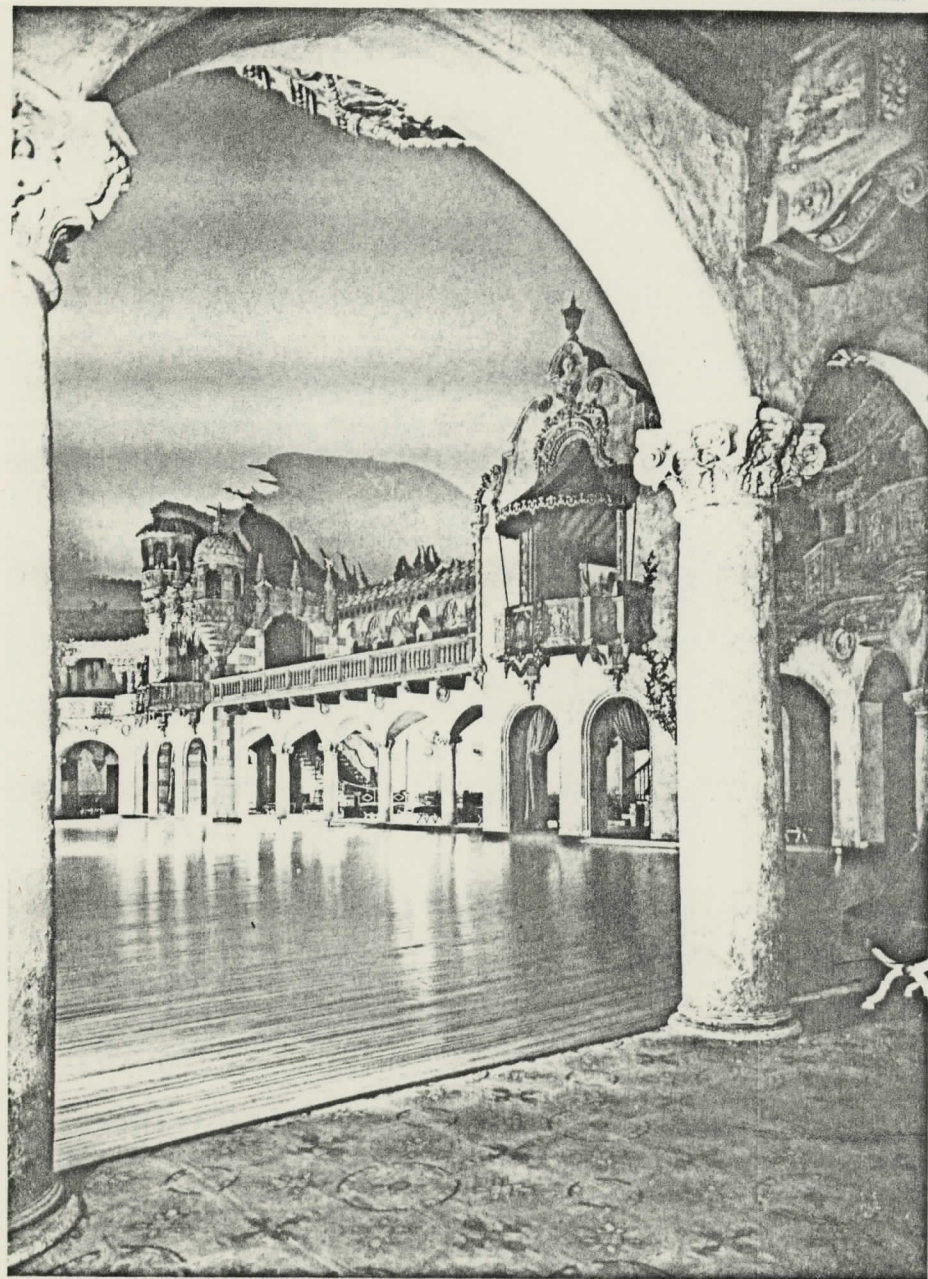
During the 1920's, 30's and 40's, two of Chicago's fine entertainment halls, the Aragon and Trianon, were known coast-to-coast as 'America's most beautiful ballrooms.' Six nights per week music from such famous bands as Wayne King, Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey, Guy Lombardo, Lawrence Welk and many others could be heard echoing from the high domed ceilings of these lavishly decorated facilities. In those days, dancing was synonymous with romance and it is guessed that more people probably fell in love at the Aragon and Trianon than anywhere else in Chicago.

Those golden days of yesterday have long since faded into oblivion, for these magnificent structures for ballroom dancing have been sorely missing from the Chicago scene for nearly 20 years. The Trianon, once Chicago's southside entertainment mecca, closed in 1954 and was demolished shortly thereafter to make room for an urban renewal project. The Aragon, on the other hand, is still standing but has undergone some radical changes since the days of the big band. The Aragon now plays host to a wide variety of pop and rock concerts as well as other similar events that are booked there throughout the year.

The Aragon itself is a structure so steeped in history and tradition that it is a virtual treasure chest of golden memories from the halcyon days of big band music. Even today, some fifty years after its initial construction, the Aragon is still the most beautiful ballroom in the country with its heavily ornamented archways, geometrically designed balconies, Spanish lighting fixtures, iron grillwork, blue domed ceiling with twinkling stars and overall motif of a Moorish palace. It is indeed, a place of deep romantic and statuesque beauty.

This album celebrates the triumphant return of big band music and ballroom dancing to both the Aragon and the city of Chicago after many years of dormancy. I sincerely hope that you enjoy this nostalgic return to yesterday and that the music contained on this album brings back as many fond memories for you as it has for me. Thank you.

*Sam Raimi*





# VALLEY DALE BALLROOM

1590 Sunbury Road  
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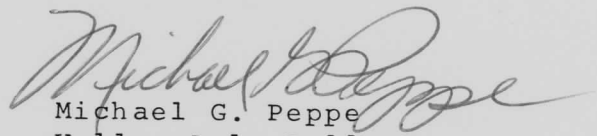
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| Bob Chester               | Horace Heidt    | Henry Busse           |
| Ben Bernie                | Kay Kyser       | Vincent Lopez         |
| Earl "Father" Hines       | Cab Calloway    | Dick Stabile          |
| Artie Shaw                | Hal Kemp        | Glen Gray             |
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| Sonny Dunham              | Bobby Sherwood  | Will Bradley          |
| Rudy Valee                | George Olsen    | Ink Spots             |
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| Kenny Gardner             | Carmen Lombardo | Joe Williams          |
| Teddy Wilson              | Gene Krupa      | Jo Stafford           |
| Lional Hampton            | Woody Herman    | Don Cornell           |
| Tommy Ryan                | Mildred Bailey  | Ray Eberly            |
| Helen O'Connell           | Mike Douglas    | Betty Hutton          |

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|                             |                                                  |                  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Gracie Barrie               | Helen Forest                                     | Kenny Sargent    |
| Skinney Ennis               | Nan Wynn                                         | Doris Robbins    |
| Pee Wee Hunt                | Bing Crosby                                      | Bill Kenny       |
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| Gus Arnheim                 | Ace Brigode                                      | Bernie Cummins   |
| Ray Pearl                   | Orrin Tucker                                     | Wee Bonnie Baker |
| Sammy Watkins               | Tommy Tucker                                     | Gracie Barrie    |
| Buddy Rogers                | Jack Teagraden                                   | Johnny Long      |
| Freddy Martin               | Muzzy Marcellino                                 | Jimmy Joy        |
| Herbie Kay                  | Dorothy Lamour                                   | Phil Harris      |
| Alice Faye                  | Hal Linden                                       | Helen Ward       |
| Bobby Hackett               | Harry James                                      | Abe Lyman        |
| Merv Griffin                | Dick Jurgens                                     | Art Kassel       |

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Al Green

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Isley Brothers

NATIONALLY KNOWN BALLROOMS

1920'S WAS THE BIGGEST BOON TO THE BIG BAND BUSINESS

BIG BAND ERA OF BALLROOMS BEGAN JUST PRIOR TO MID 1920'S

|          |                                                          |                                                 |      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------|
| (Closed) | Trianon Ballroom<br>(Auctioned 1952-Torn down)           | Chicago, IL                                     | 1922 |
| ( Open ) | Aragon Ballroom<br>(Closed 1964)<br>See article enclosed | Chicago, IL                                     | 1926 |
| (Closed) | Palomar Ballroom<br>(Was Rainbow Ballroom - Burned 1939) | Los Angeles, CA                                 |      |
| (Closed) | Palladium Ballroom                                       | Hollywood, CA                                   |      |
| (Closed) | Glen Island Casino                                       | New Rochelle, NY                                | 1918 |
| (Closed) | Arcadia Ballroom                                         | Detroit, MI                                     | 1920 |
| (Closed) | Roseland Dance City                                      | New York City, NY                               | 1918 |
| (Closed) | Meadowbrook Ballroom<br>(Discontinued dancing 1955)      | Cedargrove, NJ                                  |      |
| (Closed) | Steel Pier Ballroom<br>Ballroom (Torn down 1982)         | A.K.A. Million Dollar Pier<br>Atlantic City, NJ |      |
| (Closed) | Coconut Grove Ballroom                                   | Los Angeles, CA                                 |      |
| (Closed) | Lakeside Ballroom                                        | Denver, CO                                      |      |
| (Closed) | Rainbow Gardens Ballroom                                 | Denver, CO                                      |      |
| ( Open ) | Coconut Grove Ballroom                                   | Santa Cruse, CA                                 |      |
| ( Open ) | Elitch's Gardens<br>(Private, Summer only)               | Denver, CO                                      |      |
| (Closed) | Park Ballroom<br>(Closed early 1950's)                   | Denver, CO                                      |      |
| (Closed) | Arcadia Ballroom                                         | Detroit, MI                                     | 1920 |
| (Closed) | Greystone Ballroom                                       | Detroit, MI                                     | 1923 |
| (Closed) | Raymor Ballroom                                          | Boston, MA                                      |      |
| (Closed) | Savoy Ballroom                                           | New York City, NY                               |      |
| (Closed) | Aragon Ballroom                                          | Santa Monica, CA                                |      |



NATIONALLY KNOWN BALLROOMS

|          |                      |                     |      |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------|------|
| (Closed) | Venice Ballroom      | L.A. (area), CA     | 1920 |
| (Closed) | Plantation Ballroom  | L.A. (area), CA     | 1925 |
| ( Open ) | Avalon Ballroom      | Cataline Island, CA | 1935 |
| (Closed) | McFaddens Ballroom   | Oakland, CA         | 1935 |
| (Closed) | Birdland Ballroom    | New York City, N.Y. |      |
| ( Open ) | Starlight Ballroom   | Los Angeles, CA     |      |
| (Closed) | Casino Gardens       | Santa Monica, CA    |      |
| (Closed) | Dreamland Ballroom   | Chicago, IL         |      |
| (Closed) | Midway Gardens       | Chicago, IL         |      |
| ( OPEN ) | VALLEY DALE BALLROOM | COLUMBUS, OHIO      |      |

Stanley Dance: THE WORLD OF COUNT BASIE  
New York, Charles Scribner & Sons  
1980, pp. 97 - 99.

Betty Garrett: COLUMBUS - AMERICA'S CROSSROADS  
Tulsa, Continental Heritage Press Inc.  
1980, pp:120 - 121.

OHIO BALLROOMS

|          |                                                           |                               |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (Closed) | Rainbow Ballroom,                                         | Fremont, Ohio                 |
| (Closed) | Trianon Ballroom,                                         | Toledo, Ohio                  |
| (Closed) | Trianon Ballroom                                          | Cleveland, Ohio               |
| ( Open ) | Columbia Ballroom                                         | Strongsville, Ohio            |
| (Closed) | Castle Farm Ballroom                                      | Cincinatti, Ohio              |
| ( Open ) | Springvale Ballroom                                       | North Olmsted, Ohio           |
| ( Open ) | Idora Park Ballroom                                       | Youngstown, Ohio              |
| (Closed) | Forest Gables Ballroom                                    | Dayton, Ohio                  |
| (Closed) | Greenwich Village Ballroom                                | Dayton, Ohio                  |
| ( Open ) | Aragon Ballroom                                           | Cleveland, Ohio               |
| (Closed) | Smith's Ballroom                                          | Columbus, Ohio                |
| (Closed) | Olentangy Park Ballroom                                   | Columbus, Ohio                |
| (Closed) | Indianola Park Ballroom                                   | Columbus, Ohio                |
| (Closed) | Graystone Ballroom (Oak & 5th St.)                        | Columbus, Ohio                |
| (Closed) | Greenmill Ballroom, (Fishinger & Scioto Rv.Rd.-           | Columbus, Ohio<br>St. Rt. 33) |
| (Closed) | Silver Slipper Ballroom (Lane Ave. & Olentangy River Rd.) | Columbus, Ohio                |
| (Closed) | Buckeye Lake Pier Ballroom                                | Buckeye Lake, Ohio            |
| (Closed) | Crystal Ballroom                                          | Buckeye Lake, Ohio            |
| (Closed) | Geauga Lake Ballroom                                      | Geauga Lake, Ohio             |
| (Closed) | Spring Lakes Ballroom                                     | Berwick, Ohio                 |
| (Closed) | Russell's Point Ballroom                                  | Indian Lake, Ohio             |
| ( Open ) | Cedar Point Ballroom (Infrequent-Summer only)             | Sandusky, Ohio                |
| (Closed) | Ruggles Beach Ballroom                                    | Vermillion, Ohio              |
| (Closed) | Gem Beach Ballroom                                        | Catawba, Ohio                 |



OHIO BALLROOMS

|                     |                             |                          |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (Closed)            | Erie Beach Ballroom         | Port Clinton, Ohio       |
| ( Open )            | Carousel Ballroom           | Celina, Ohio             |
| (Closed)            | Geneva on the Lake Ballroom | Geneva on the Lake, Ohio |
| (Closed)            | Myers Lake Ballroom         | Canton, Ohio             |
| (Closed)            | Coney Island Ballroom       | Cincinatti, Ohio         |
| (Closed)            | Crystal Ball Ballroom       | Versailles, Ohio         |
| (Closed)            | Edgewater Park Ballroom     | Celina, Ohio             |
| (Status<br>Unknown) | Chippawa Lake Ballroom      | Medina Vicinity, Ohio    |

# Ballroom Operators

Ponderosa Ballroom  
Roaring 20's Ballroom  
Howells Ballroom  
Idora Park Ballroom  
Valleydale Ballroom  
The Cold Springs Resort  
Aragon Ballroom  
Teara Ballroom  
Melody Mill  
Hub Ballroom  
Tuxedo Junction  
Carousel Ballroom  
Surf Ballroom  
Moose Lodge  
Wintergarden  
4 Seasons Ballroom  
Chandelier  
Ernie's Palace  
Kingsdale Recreation Center  
Omaha Center  
Elks Lodge  
Knights of Columbus  
Lindendale Park  
Matterip Ballroom  
Peony Park  
Coliseum  
Community Hall  
Lakewood Ballroom  
Medina Ballroom  
Coliseum Ballroom  
Electric Park  
Flying V Ballroom  
Fairylane Ballroom  
Scottish Rite Bldg.  
Dubuque Fairgrounds  
Orchard Inn  
Surf Ballroom  
Northfield Ballroom  
Bell-Rae Ballroom  
Two Rivers Festival at Nollen Plaza  
Val-Air Ballroom  
Fairylane Ballroom  
St. John's Activity Center  
Cotillion Ballroom

Walford, Iowa  
San Antonio, Texas  
Howells, Missouri  
Youngstown, Ohio  
Columbus, Ohio  
Hamilton, Indiana  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Bloomington, Illinois  
N. Riverside, Illinois  
Edelstein, Illinois  
Metropolis, Illinois  
Celina, Ohio  
Clearlake, Iowa  
Wichita, Kansas  
Dallas, Texas  
Dallas, Texas  
Houston, Texas  
El Reno, Oklahoma  
Bellavisto, Arkansas  
Cherokee Village, Arkansas  
Brookfield, Missouri  
Riverton, Illinois  
Highland, Illinois  
Decorah, Iowa  
Omaha, Nebraska  
Davenport, Iowa  
New Vienna, Iowa  
Lake View, Iowa  
Hamel, Minnesota  
Worthington, Minnesota  
Waterloo, Iowa  
Utica, Nebraska  
Long Grove, Iowa  
Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Dubuque, Iowa  
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Northfield, Minnesota  
Moundsview, Minnesota  
Des Moines, Iowa  
West Des Moines, Iowa  
Long Grove, Iowa  
Sherman, Ohio  
Wichita, Kansas



THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1982

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## The Region

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approved today by the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

The arrangement gives Island Casino Inc. a 10-year lease with an option to renew the agreement for 15 more years. Under the agreement, which the legislators approved by a 16-to-1 vote, Island Casino will spend as much as \$1.6 million to renovate the casino on the Long Island Sound in New Rochelle.

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### Big Band Club To Be Restored

WHITE PLAINS, Aug. 30 (AP) — The Glen Island Casino, a popular nightspot during the Big Band Era, will be restored under an agreement

# DANCING AT VALLEY DALE

**Famous Columbus ballroom escapes oblivion.  
“The Dale” again welcomes big band fans.**

Mary Max Stants remembers that it was back in 1936 when she attended her first dance. She was in junior high school then and was escorted by her boyfriend, Richard, whom she later married. They went to Valley Dale, where Earl Hood led the house band. From that day to this, the couple's lives have been affected by the famous ballroom.

Mary remembers dancing to the music of many of the nation's top big bands at Valley Dale. Some that came to mind as I visited with her in her Clintonville home were Glenn Miller, Jimmie Lunceford, Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Jan Savitt and Charlie Barnet.

A little additional research on my part revealed that most of the country's most famous orchestras played for dancing at Valley Dale. Among them: Alvino Rey, Les Brown, Isham Jones, Frankie Masters, Jack Teagarden, Ted Fio Rito, Shep Fields, Paul Whiteman, Rudy Vallee and Guy Lombardo.

The big names just kept coming to the Dale: Duke Ellington, Ted Weems, Sammy Kaye, Horace Heidt, Cab Calloway, Hal Kemp, Russ Morgan, Charlie Spivak, Bobby Sherwood, Bunny Berigan, Jimmy Dorsey, Bob Crosby, Henry Busse, Ben Pollack, Tommy Tucker, Vincent Lopez, George Olsen, Dick Stabile and Glen Gray.

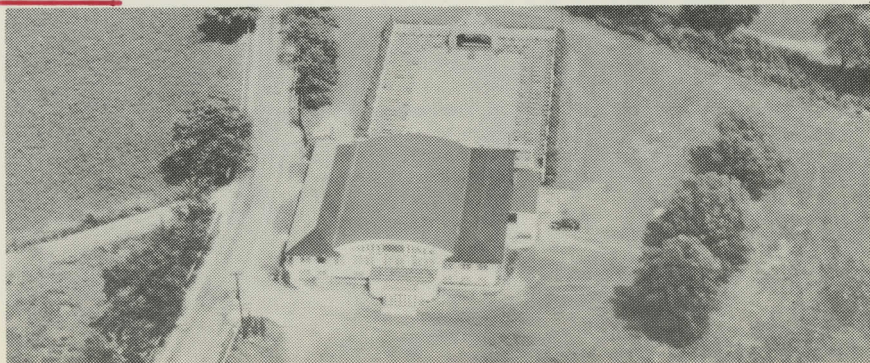
There are many interesting stories in the



**The Peppe Brothers: (L-R) Jim, Lou and Mike.**

history of Valley Dale. In 1931, four men arrived in a truck and asked Jim Peppe if they could sing for the people. It was a “slim crowd” that night, so Jim agreed to let them perform. Afterward, the four asked Peppe what he thought of their singing. He told

**Valley Dale from the air, prior to the Frank Daley lease.**



*\* SEE INSIDE REGARDING 1941 VALLEY DALE REMODEL.*





**Tommy Dorsey packed Valley Dale for this dance in 1938.**

them they definitely had possibilities and advised them to get a good agent.

"Will you be our manager?," the men asked Peppe. They offered him 50% of their earnings, but Jim Peppe, who was mulling over an offer from Columbia Broadcasting, said he was just too busy to take on any more responsibility. Go to New York, he advised, — that's where the real opportunities are. You just might make it big. The quartet took Peppe's advice. They went to New York and they made it big, . . . as The Mills Brothers!

Special duty police were required to protect Rudy Vallee from his adoring fans when he played Valley Dale's outdoor dance floor. Frenzied women reached out to touch him and tear away souvenir bits of his clothing!

Another story concerns Kay Kyser, who had just graduated from college. He formed a band to play school proms and other dates,

but was having trouble getting started. Jim Peppe wanted to help, so he hired Kyser to play at Valley Dale during the summer. As a regular gimmick to entertain the crowd, the bandleader would keep backing up until, eventually, he would fall backward off the bandstand. Always there was somebody there to catch him, — always except once. It was on that occasion that Kyser fell all the way to the dance floor and broke his ankle. The gimmick, I am told, was removed from Kyser's act!

Valley Dale, which is located at 1590 Sunbury Rd, stands on the site of an old 19th century inn and stagecoach stop. In 1918, the building there was converted into a ballroom and named Valley Dale.

About five years later, at 8 PM Monday, December 31, 1923, as trombonist Clement Alspach was returning to the ballroom to

**Valley Dale after Frank Daley remodeled it.**







**Earl Hood's fine orchestra was Valley Dale's house band for many years.**

play in the Robert Royce Orchestra for the New Year's Eve Dance, he saw the structure in flames. It burned to the ground.

The next year, operating as the Valley Dale Company, Jules Melacon and Harold Elford built the present building on the original foundation. In 1925, ownership passed into the hands of the Metro Amusement Company, and the outdoor dance garden was opened. Jim Peppe was hired to manage the Dale in 1927, and Lou Peppe worked there while studying for his degree from OSU. In 1932, the Peppe brothers leased the ballroom with an option to buy. That option was exercised in 1938, and Lou, who had become the manager in 1935, remained in that capacity until 1941.

It was in 1941 that Frank Daley leased

**Duke Ellington played Valley Dale many times.**



Valley Dale and remodeled it to resemble his famed Meadowbrook in New Jersey. At about this time, CBS and Mutual began doing back-to-back radio broadcasts from the ballroom, which had attained national recognition.

At the end of Daley's one-year lease, Lou Peppe resumed management of Valley Dale, which had become a popular venue for the country's leading big bands.

The late Chuck Selby took over as manager in 1951, and his orchestra became the house band. In the sixties, the Chuck Selby Dance Club was formed and operated out of Valley Dale, which also was available for private parties.

Columbus came very close to losing Valley Dale in January, 1980, when the City of Columbus closed it because of building code violations. It appeared that the job of bringing the old ballroom up to modern safety standards was just too costly to be feasible.

There are those who just bemoan the loss of our significant buildings and institutions and do nothing to save them. But there also are those who match their words with action, and Mary Max Stants is one of them.

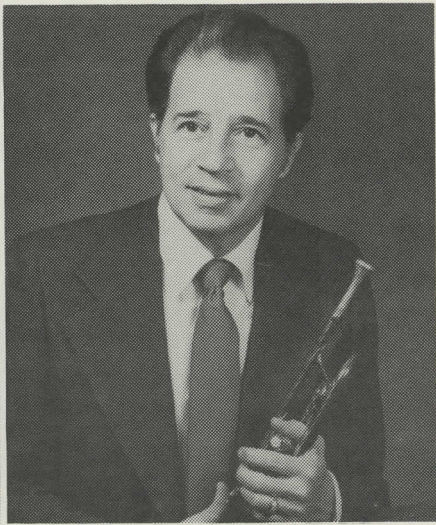
"This building was just too important to let go. It is a landmark, — part of Columbus, — part of the history and heritage of the people," Mary told me. She thought maybe a "citizens' support action" might save Valley Dale, and she sorted through her files of folks who had used the ballroom, over the years. She contacted them and suggested that they write to Mayor Moody and to the newspapers, making known their desire to save the Dale.

Mary also called Ron Pataky, the former entertainment editor of the *Columbus Citizen-Journal*. Ron wrote a feature article for the C-J, which ignited additional interest in the "Save Valley Dale" movement. Six-hundred people showed up for a "Friends of Valley Dale Dance" in the Beightler Armory.





**Sammy Kaye played his sweet music for dancing at Valley Dale.**



**Bruno Masdea, whose 15-piece band will play Valley Dale on June 6.**

The combined show of support was enough to influence Mike Peppe, who had taken the Dale over from Lou following the closing, to go ahead with the major renovation.

To date, more than \$350,000 has been spent to make Valley Dale safe and to restore much of the historic ballroom's original beauty. Steel fire doors have replaced the old wooden ones, and there now are ten double emergency exits. A sprinkler system has been installed. A new ceiling is in place, and the building has been completely re-wired. A new furnace has been installed, making a total of four to heat the building.

Mike Peppe plans to pump earned profits back into refurbishing Valley Dale. With continued public support, the big parking lot will be paved. It's even possible that the outdoor dance pavilion and bandstand will be restored eventually.

Things look good for Valley Dale, as various groups schedule private and public dances. As this is being written, plans are not yet complete for the official reopening of the celebrated dance hall, but it is likely a big name band will be brought in for the occasion, — possibly the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, but that will depend upon available dates and tour routing.

On Friday, May 1, Spook Beckman will present a dance party featuring the Chuck Selby Orchestra with Anne Young and the Capital City Jazz & Dixieland Band with Marilyn Daye. Tickets are priced at \$7. Dancing will be from 9 PM to 1 AM.

On Friday, May 8, the Rotary Club will sponsor a benefit dance for the Columbus Zoo. The bands of Rick Monroe and Al

Berry will play for dancing, from 9 PM to 1 AM.

On Thursday, May 14, the Good Time Jazz Band from Rosie O'Grady's in Orlando, Florida will play Valley Dale. A 40-minute concert will be followed by dancing. Ruth Crew, who has been called "a modern Sophie Tucker," will be featured. The event will begin at 8 PM and end at midnight.

Friday, May 22 is the date for WOSU's big Victory Dance, which will feature a Patron Dessert from 7:30-9 PM and dancing from 9 PM to 1 AM. The Chuck Selby Orchestra will play for dancing, and there will be videotaped big band features during the dessert. Call WOSU for details.

Louise Masdea called me to say that the Bruno Masdea 15-piece Dance Band will play for a public dance on Saturday, June 6. The band will play much of the music from the fabulous forties from 9 PM until 1 AM. Advance tickets are priced at \$7, while the price at the door will be \$8. Tables will be reserved for ten or more persons. For reservations or information, telephone Louise at 471-1592 or Mary Stants at 263-8487.

The *Other Music* is back in force! If you'd like it to continue, show your support by attending the exciting events scheduled at Valley Dale, the Ohio Theatre, and Country Dinner Playhouse. *Inside Columbus* will keep you fully informed about future events.

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Reprinted from *Inside Columbus* (5/3/81) and presented courtesy of the BRUNO MASDEA BIG DANCE BAND, available for booking, — telephone (614) 471-1592.

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## Era of Big Bands Preserved in Central Ohio Ballroom

The era of the "Big Band Sound," popular in the 1930s and early 1940s, began to disintegrate near the time the United States entered the second World War. American men and women became increasingly involved with the country's war effort and simply did not attend dances in such numbers as before. Gasoline was rationed, and a drive to the local dance hall became an unnecessary waste of the precious fuel. After the war, the popularity of the big bands did not return with the same intensity. There seemed little interest in a resurgence of ballroom dancing, and ballrooms were unable to keep a steady business. Today very few remain standing.

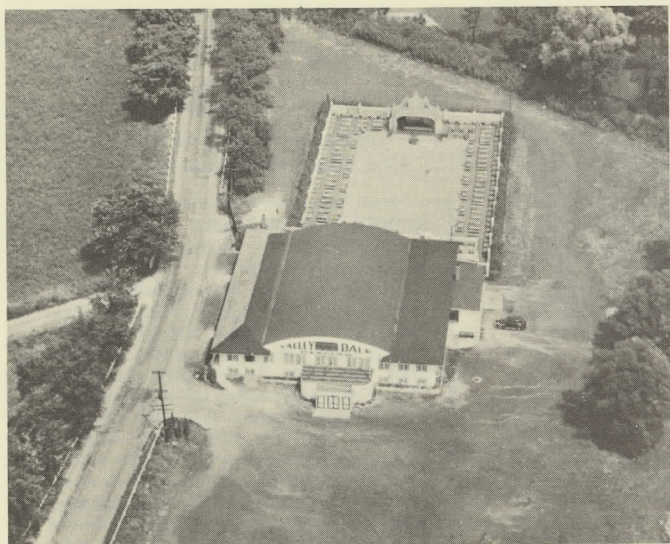
Due to the persistence of the owners and the support of the local citizens, however, one central Ohio ballroom not only survived through the years after the war, but will be reopened this year to once again sponsor dances to the sounds of big bands. Valley Dale, on Sunbury Road in Columbus, is currently being renovated and refurbished in anticipation of a reopening later this year. During its heyday, Valley Dale had simultaneous coast-to-coast broadcasts by CBS and NBC radio networks. The

bands that played there were heard throughout America. Today the Dale is one of the few nationally known ballrooms remaining in the country.

The history of Valley Dale began in the 1800s when an inn and stagecoach stop were located on the spot on which the ballroom later stood. Sunbury Road at the time was a toll road, and people would stop at the inn while traveling or transporting goods between Sunbury and Columbus. In 1918 a building on the present site was converted into a ballroom and was named Valley Dale. In an unfortunate New Year's Eve fire in 1923, the building was burned to the ground. Undaunted, the owners leveled the area around the dance floor, placed shrubs and other plantings around it, and continued the dancing in the "Sunken Gardens" until a new building was completed in 1924. This is the building that remains today. The new building contained a wooden dance floor anchored under the bandstand. The floor would rise and fall with the flood waters from nearby Alum Creek. In 1925 an outdoor dance garden was opened, remaining so until 1961, and even at this early date well-known bands were appearing at the Dale, long before the era of the big

bands. In 1931 Kay Kyser spent three months at the ballroom. In 1935 the well-known local band of Earl Hood became the house band, a title it held until New Year's Eve of 1950 when it retired. Under new management in 1941, the Dale was remodeled after the famed Meadowbrook in New Jersey. Reopening in October with Glen Gray, the Dale then hosted the back-to-back broadcasts of CBS and NBC on a coast-to-coast hook-up. The Dale had reached its zenith—it became known nationally as one of the great ballrooms with a reputation for an unusual and outstanding acoustical set-up. At the time the distinctive interior featured a large dance floor with a stage flanked by rounded recording booths used by the radio stations and decorated with padded vinyl at one end. A staircase led to the balcony containing a padded vinyl circular bar. In 1951, after the retirement of the Earl Hood band, the Chuck Selby band became the house band. Then in 1980 Valley Dale was threatened with condemnation by the City of Columbus. An "incredible groundswell" of public and media support for its preservation convinced owner Michael G. Peppe to reha-

continued on page 4



This aerial photo of Valley Dale, taken in 1940, shows the outdoor dance floor which operated from the 1920s until 1961.



The bandstand of the "Sunken Garden," the outdoor dance floor, as it appeared in the 1940s.



## OHS Membership — Your Money's Worth

It's difficult to stretch a dollar very far nowadays. But, with a membership in the Ohio Historical Society, you can still get your money's worth. Even with today's inflation, your dollar entitles you to many special benefits, including:

- Unlimited free admission at the Ohio Historical Society's museums, memorials, and other historical attractions
- Substantial discounts or free admission to most Society-sponsored special events, including tours, lectures, performing arts events, and exhibits, conferences, and outdoor festivals
- Free subscription to the monthly Society newsletter, *Echoes*
- Special discount on a subscription to *Ohio History*, the Society's quarterly journal of history
- Discount on Society-published books and other publications
- A voice in the Society government through a vote in the annual election

The Society honors the Golden Buckeye Card. Holders of the card can save a full 20 percent on the cost of membership simply by entering the card number in the appropriate spot on the membership application.

In addition to the annual individual and family membership, the Ohio Historical Society also provides membership categories designated for those

who wish to make a contribution beyond the minimum dues.

There is a life membership category for those persons who wish to make a one-time payment of \$500 and become lifelong supporters of the Society.

An annual supporting membership also permits persons to contribute to the work of the Society in amounts greater than individual and family memberships. Annual supporting memberships are accepted for contributions of \$35, \$50, or \$100.

Those who have contributed as annual supporting members from April 11, 1981, through May 10, 1981, are as follows:

### \$35

William F. Adamescu, Matt Blackburn, Mrs. Lee S. Brook, Zane Caverns, Mr. & Mrs. Bobby J. Clark, Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Colby, Robert Delgado, Charline Flack, Mr. & Mrs. Robert K. Fox, Wesley T. Harrison, David R. Herritt, Richard L. Herzog, Mrs. Hessie M. Hosafros, Carl E. Kaiser, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kusmierz, John F. Long, DVM, Harry H. Long, Jr., Rollo M. Marchant, Mr. & Mrs. Donald McKinney, Mrs. Lynn E. Oviatt, Ernest H. Ress, Paul E. Rieger, Gary L. Rogers, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Royer, Kenneth J. Shew, Howard G. & Helen W. Smith

### \$50

George W. Barker  
John O. England  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Miller  
Donald J. Overly  
Dr. Robert J. Weber  
R. D. Wickerham

### \$100

Frances A. Miller, M.D.

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☐ Family \$15  
☐ Organization \$200  
☐ Supporting \$100, \$50, \$35  
☐ Life Membership \$500  
☐ Subscription to  
*Ohio History* \$5 (non-member rate \$8)  
Golden Buckeye Card

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me a renewal reminder for this membership next year.

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Cash ☐ Check

Or charge to my

☐ VISA ☐ Master Card

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Ohio Historical Society

## International Typographical Union Marker Dedicated

On May 5, 1852, delegates from printers' societies in nine states met in Cincinnati and formed the International Typographical Union, currently the oldest existing labor union in the United States. To commemorate that historic event, a bronze marker was dedicated on May 5, 1981, at Cincinnati City Hall. The ceremony took place on the spot where the union was formed 129 years ago. A three-and-one-half-foot-square bronze marker, sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society as part of its Ohio Labor History Project, was installed in the sidewalk outside City Hall by the Cincinnati Cement Mason's Union Local No. 524, which donated the manpower and materials. Joe Bingel, President of the International Typographical Union, Oscar G. Lee, President of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, and Mayor David S. Mann, attended the ceremony with other Cincinnati city officials and officers of the Cincinnati Typographical Union and the Ohio Typographical Conference. Dr. Gary C.

Ness, Director of the Ohio Historical Society, and David M. Holford, moderator of the ceremony and member of the Ohio Labor History Project, represented the Society.



Cincinnati Mayor David S. Mann; Joe Bingel, President of the International Typographical Union; John P. Hennessey, President of Cincinnati Typographical Union No. 3; Fay Coder, Secretary-Treasurer of Cincinnati Typographical Union No. 3; and Dr. Gary C. Ness, Ohio Historical Society Director, were among those who attended the dedication of the bronze marker commemorating the founding of the International Typographical Union.

### ECHOES (ISSN 0012-933X)

Published monthly by the Ohio Historical Society, 1-71 and 17th Ave., Columbus, OH 43211, (614) 466-1500. Subscriptions available through any society membership. Individual annual \$10. Family annual \$15. Organization annual \$200. Supporting annual \$35, \$50, \$100. Life \$500. Patron \$2500. Benefactor \$5000. Other membership privileges include a 20% discount on society publications and free admission to all sites. Life, Patron, and Benefactor members also receive a subscription to *Ohio History*. *Echoes* news items must be received at least two months before publication date. Editors are encouraged to reprint articles with credit. Nancy Pollack, editor, Bruce Baby, designer.



# July Activities Feature Out-of-Doors Events

## Independence Day Celebrations

Independence Day will be celebrated in Ohio Village on Saturday, July 4, with flag raisings, rifle firings, a tug-of-war, a cake walk, concerts by the Ohio Village Singers, and numerous patriotic and political orations. From 9 in the morning until 5 in the evening, a full schedule of activities makes it possible to relive the 4th of July holiday spirit of the mid to late 1800s.

Fiddle and banjo music of the period will be played in the town hall at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. At 10:30 a.m., an 1850 regular army recruitment drive demonstration will take place. Dr. Balthasar's Traveling Medicine Show will be seen at noon. The traditional firing of rifles one at a time (*feu de joi*) will be presented by the 9th Virginia Regiment at 1 p.m., followed by the ceremonial flag raising, playing of the "Star Spangled Banner," and reading of the Declaration of Independence. At 1:30 p.m. a Temperance Society demonstration will feature songs such as "The Home Protection Battle Song" and a speech entitled "Down with Demon Rum." The Ohio Village Singers will present concerts of patriotic songs in the town hall at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., and the 9th Virginia Regiment will perform its Sights and Sounds of the American Revolution drill in the Village square at 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. There will be a tug-of-war at 2 p.m., a cake walk at 3 p.m., fife and drum music by the 9th Virginia Regiment at 3:30 p.m., and dancing on the Village green at 4 p.m. by members of the Ohio Village Singers troupe.

At Fort Meigs, military demonstrations and concerts of martial music performed by the Fort Meigs fife and drum corps will be climaxed by the firing of a

seventeen-cannon salute to Independence Day at 2 p.m. On Sunday, July 5, there will be a special display at Fort Meigs of uniforms and weapons used by American soldiers from the time of the Revolutionary War until the present.

## Natural History Programs

Martha Otto, OHS Curator of Archaeology, and Bob Glotzhofer, Assistant Curator of Natural History, will lead a bus tour to the Newark Earthworks and Flint Ridge on Saturday, July 18. Similar to last year's tour of Serpent Mound, Seip Mound, and Fort Hill, the primary emphasis of the day-long trip will be archaeological with the interpretation of related aspects of natural history as background. Mrs. Otto will discuss the Hopewell Indian culture, how it came to be located in the Licking River valley, the culture's use of the flint quarried in the area, and the planning and building of the earthworks. Mr. Glotzhofer will cover the geological history of Flint Ridge, and he will comment on the plant and animal life encountered at both sites. A lunch stop will be made in the vicinity of the earthworks in Newark where participants can picnic or visit nearby fast food restaurants. Background materials will be distributed to those attending. There is a fee for the tour of \$8 for members of the Ohio Historical Society (\$10 for non-members), and reservations should be made through the Natural History Department at (614) 466-1500, extension 251.

On the same day, July 18, Dr. Clara May Frederick, Professor of Biology at Urbana College, will draw on her comprehensive knowledge of the botany of Cedar Bog as she leads a guest lecture tour through the nature preserve beginning at 1 p.m. Following introductory

remarks on the geological history of the area, Dr. Frederick will focus on the different kinds of plants found at Cedar Bog. She will point out examples of northern boreal, prairie, and southeast coastal plain plant species. Dr. Frederick has been acquainted with Cedar Bog for more than thirty years. She wrote her doctoral dissertation for The Ohio State University on the flora of the nature preserve, and it was subsequently published as the lead article in the March 1974 *Ohio Journal of Science* issue on Cedar Bog. Pre-registration is required for the tour, and there is a fee of \$2 per person. Please call (614) 466-1500, extension 251, to make reservations.

## Special Site Programs

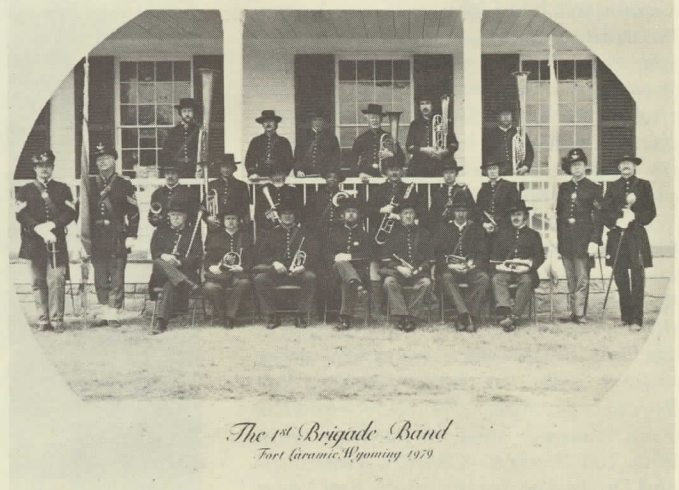
A Wapakoneta community celebration honoring the history of flight in Ohio will center around activities at the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum the weekend of July 18 and 19. Hot air balloon rallies will be held at the museum Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning. Sunday afternoon, there will be a demonstration of a model rocket launch at 1 p.m. The Spirit of America model airplane flying group will stage a radio-controlled airplane show at 1:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m. there will be a model rocket launch competition. (Entry forms for the competition are available at the Armstrong Museum.) The museum will also be open on Monday, July 20, to accommodate weekend visitors staying over and for post office cancellation of first-day covers commemorating the 12th anniversary of Armstrong's moon landing.

Fort Meigs will host Black Swamp Spinning Guild demonstrations on July 12 and a Civil War encampment during

continued on page 5



The original First Brigade Band, 3rd Division, 15th Army Corps, at Janesville, Wisconsin, 1864 (photo courtesy of the Chicago Historical Society).



The Milwaukee First Brigade Band, pictured here in 1979, will give a concert at Ohio Village in July (photo courtesy of Ludens Studio, Torrington, Wyoming).



## Ballroom

bilitate and reopen the ballroom. The building is currently being considered for nomination to the National Register.

Significant for its role in bringing top musical entertainment to several generations of Ohio residents, Valley Dale played host to most of the name bands during its long history. Included among entertainers who performed at the Dale are Rudy Vallee, Ben Bernie, Tommy Dorsey, Fred Waring, Paul Whiteman, Woody Herman, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Harry James, Benny Goodman, Guy Lombardo, Glenn Miller, Fats Waller, Jimmy Dorsey, Bob Crosby, Russ Morgan, Sammy Kaye, Ted Weems, Artie Shaw, and Earl "Fatha" Hines. Many of these came to the Dale more than once.

In a March 14, 1980, *Columbus Citizen Journal* article, Earl Hood remembered, "The night Sinatra sang with Tommy Dorsey was unforgettable. The girls were screaming and almost fainting. You couldn't hear yourself think. Then there was one night Guy Lombardo was there. It was probably the biggest night ever at the Dale. Both the indoor and outdoor dance floors were absolutely packed. Most of all, though, I remember that great Benny Goodman quartet, with Benny, Teddy Wilson, Gene Krupa, and Lionel Hampton. That was the greatest." Ted Weems came, featuring a young unknown named Perry Como; Artie Shaw brought Billie Holiday; and Jimmy Dorsey's 1937 band featured Helen O'Connell. In 1977 owner Lou Peppe recalled, "The hottest of them all was Rudy Vallee. They mobbed the wavy-haired crooner, and the swoons were real." The biggest draw was Glenn Miller who came during the time just after the effects of the Depression were wearing off. Benny Goodman's band featured Gene Krupa. According to a local ad, "Gene Krupa, one of the highest salaried dance band musicians in the nation, who sets the rhythm for Benny Goodman's crack orchestra, will show his stick work Saturday night when the Goodman ensemble plays a one-night stand at Valley Dale."

In 1958, Norman Nadel wrote in the *Columbus Citizen Magazine*, "In the nostalgia department, it's the band names that stir up the memories for the hundreds of thousands who have danced at the Dale. But at least as important as the visitors were the house bands. Bob Royce for example. When Royce quit the band business, most of his boys went with Ted Weems—Country Washburn and Dusty Rhodes included. Kay Kyser came up from the University of North Carolina for a whole summer, before he



The Earl Hood Orchestra became the house band in 1935. After its retirement, the Chuck Selby Orchestra earned the honor.



Tommy Dorsey and his Orchestra entertaining at Valley Dale in 1938. Most other famous big bands played at the Dale, many of them more than once.



became famous. The Dale was a good bread-and-butter job for the genial Southerner. Paul Decker, Allen Hale, and Earl Hood were other house bands that did stalwart service over the years. Paul Whiteman came here once back when his vocal trio (including Bing Crosby) was repeatedly asked to do their hit number "Mississippi Mud." Skip Young of Columbus sang tenor with Whiteman at the time.

In a *Columbus Dispatch Sunday Magazine* (November 1977) article, Robert Albrecht described the crowds and atmosphere at the Dale: "Fox-trotting gracefully, posing and watching, the radiant young of central Ohio made the



The Don Crawford Band, flanked by the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and the Mutual Broadcasting System (NBC) radio booths, playing for dancers at Valley Dale.

Valley Dale their mecca. For a good part of the first half of this century the Sunbury Road ballroom attracted the best popular musicians in the country, as well as those eager to listen and be moved by what they heard. 'It was a sentimental group,' remembered announcer Bill Corley, whose voice radio listeners throughout the country heard introduce Glen Gray's Casa Loma Orchestra. 'They did dance holding each other—cheek to cheek. Sentimentality meant something in those days. They listened to the lyrics.' From behind the microphone the mellow-voiced announcer had a view of crowds dressed in the finest each owned. Owner Lou Peppe confirmed Corley's recollection of decorum. Women could not smoke. The gentleman who forgot himself and appeared on the dance floor without his coat was reminded or shown the way off. The establishment's clean reputation with house mothers and dormitory monitors made it easy for college girls to get out for an evening."

Such a rich history has earned its place in the memories of many Ohioans. With the support of the community behind the effort, Valley Dale will be preserved so that generations to come will be able to share its history.

Nancy S. Pollack  
Publications Division

continued from page 3

## Events

the weekend of July 18 and 19. The demonstrations of nineteenth-century spinning techniques will be repeated several times throughout the day on the 12th. The Civil War encampment will feature drills and demonstrations of camp life. A lantern tour of Fort Meigs will be conducted Saturday evening, July 18. Reservations are required and can be made through (419) 874-4121. Regular admission charges apply, and OHS members are admitted free of charge.

Lantern light tours of Schoenbrunn Village in New Philadelphia will take place on July 25 when costumed guides will lead visitors through the eighteenth-century Moravian mission community. The required reservations are available through (216) 874-3011. A

fee of \$2.00 will be charged for the lantern tour.

During the month of July, the summer weekends of special entertainment at Ohio Village continue with concerts by the Village Singers, temperance demonstrations, and performances by guest entertainers during the regular operating hours.

An old-fashioned evening band concert and picnic will take place in Ohio Village on Saturday, July 18. The Milwaukee First Brigade Band will perform martial music of the Civil War period. Authentic period musical instruments (none dating later than 1865) are used by the band. Boxed picnic dinners will be available for purchase at the Village. Tickets can be obtained for the concert separately or with the picnic dinner included. Either way, reservations are necessary and can be made through (614) 466-1500, extension 207.

## Village Craft Items for Sale

This month Ohio Village is featuring selected specialty items for sale through the mail—chalkware from the Glass and China Shop and three broadsides from the Print Shop.

Inspired by English Staffordshire, folk artists made chalkware in America during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Hand-painted reproductions of this classic American folk art are available through the Village's Glass and China Shop. Each piece was crafted in the original manner using materials identical to those used 200 years ago. Each chalkware figurine—carved as a dog, goat, hen, squirrel, doves, lamb, cat, man, or flowers—sells for \$13.50 (please specify which figurine you want when ordering).

Three broadsides made in the Print Shop are also featured this month. A playbill advertising *The Drunkard* and *Two Buzzards* for December 23, 1869, approximately 10" x 19", sells for \$2.00. Also for \$2.00 is a broadside announcing the visit of the Siamese Twins, Chang and Eng, to Cincinnati's Pearl House, measuring about 8 1/4" x 15." A limited quantity of broadsides advertising Howarth's Grand Hibernica, an Irish all-star comedy company, each 11 1/2" x 35", is available for \$5.00 apiece. Each of the three different broadsides is black ink on white paper and suitable for framing.

To order these items, send a check or money order to the Ohio Village Office, I-71 and 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211. Please add 50 cents for shipping to the cost of the items.

SIAMESE

TWIN

For 5 Days Only.

THE  
UNITED BROTHERS, CHANG-ENG.  
*Very respectfully acquaint the Ladies and Gentlemen of*

CINCINNATI

THAT THEY WILL BE IN THAT PLACE ON

27th. to 31st. JANUARY

And will receive Visitors at the

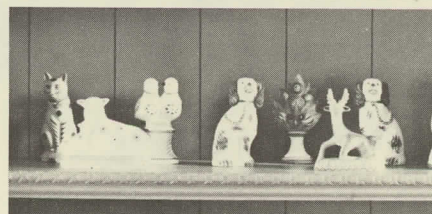
Pearl House

The Hours of Admission will be from 12:30 till 5:30 in the Afternoon, and from 7:00 till 9:00 in the Evening.

ADMITTANCE 50 CENTS.

Pamphlets, containing an historical account of the Twins, with many interesting particulars never before published, can be purchased at their Room. Prior, with an engraved likeness, 12 1/2 cents—with a lithograph, 18 3/4 cents. The Twins have also a few copies of a very superior likeness, executed in lithograph, and suitable for framing.

NO RE-ADMISSION TO THE ROOM.





## State Historic Preservation Officer

W. Ray Luce, Chief of the Society's Ohio Historic Preservation Office, has been appointed Ohio's State Historic Preservation Officer by Governor James A. Rhodes. The State Historic Preservation Officer is responsible for implementing the cooperative federal-state historic preservation program which was authorized by Congress in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

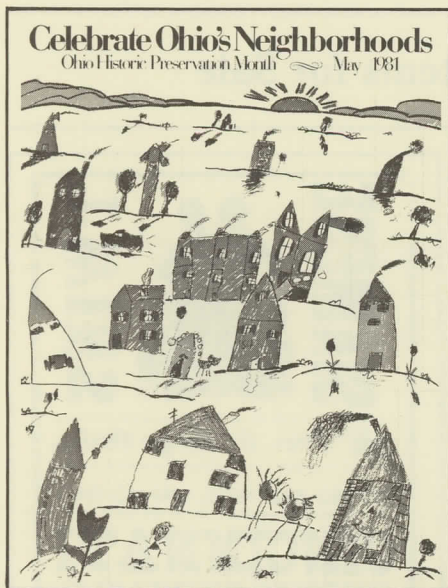
The State Historic Preservation Officer oversees the development of a comprehensive plan for ensuring the conservation of Ohio's archaeological, architectural, and historic resources, and supervises the staff of the Ohio His-

toric Preservation Office. The staff conducts the Ohio Historic Inventory and the Ohio Archaeological Inventory, prepares nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, reviews the potential effects of proposed federal and state projects on historic properties, administers U.S. Department of the Interior matching grants for the preservation of historic sites in Ohio, and assists local organizations and individuals.

Before joining the staff of the Ohio Historical Society in January 1981, Luce was a historian in the Washington, D.C., office of the National Register of Historic Places.

## Students Participate in Poster Design

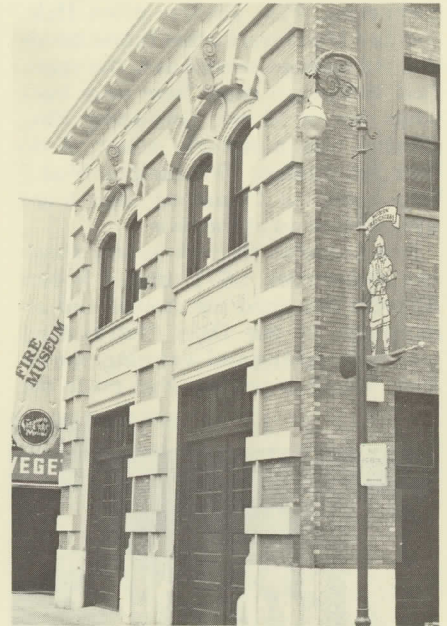
During their tour of the Ohio Historical Center, first grade students from



Chicago Avenue Elementary School, on Columbus' near west side, were invited to draw pictures of houses to be used on the Ohio Historic Preservation Office's "Preservation Month" poster. Depicting the theme of "Celebrate Ohio's Neighborhoods," approximately ninety children submitted crayon drawings of houses, fourteen of which were chosen to be reproduced on the poster and on a calendar of preservation-related events. Preservation Office staff members presented a framed copy of the poster to the school at an assembly on May 21.

A limited number of unfolded copies of the poster suitable for framing are available at \$5.00 each for shipping and handling. Checks should be made payable to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and addressed to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Center, 1-71 and 17th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43211. Posters will be mailed first-class in a sturdy mailing tube.

## Grant Project Completed



A \$17,500 U.S. Department of the Interior matching grant obtained through the Society's Ohio Historic Preservation Office has facilitated preservation of Cincinnati's historic Court Street Fire House. Operated by the Cincinnati Fire Museum Association, the seventy-four-year-old station now houses exhibits and a collection of fire fighting equipment. The Fire Museum, located at 315 Court Street, is open Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and weekends noon - 4 p.m.

## Sound System Interpretation Introduced in Law Office

The law office in Ohio Village is the recipient of a new interpretation system installed just prior to the peak summer season. Visitors to the building will now be able to hear a three-minute tape describe the duties and functions of a mid-nineteenth-century, small town lawyer. Mannequins representing a lawyer, his client, and a law clerk have been placed in the office. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held May 7 to dedicate the new interpretation system, made possible through gifts from the Ohio State Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Foundation, Ohio Bar Title Insurance Co., Bar Association of Greater Cleveland, Columbus Bar Association, Columbus Bar Association Foundation, and Miami County Bar Association.





## Museum Features Special Exhibit

An exhibit featuring the paintings of an Ohio artist will be displayed this summer at the East Liverpool Museum of Ceramics. The works of nineteenth-century artist David Gilmour Blythe, born in eastern Ohio in 1815, will be highlighted through August 23 at the museum. Between twenty-five and thirty of his works painted during the 1840s and 1850s will make up the exhibition, entitled "David Gilmour Blythe: The Formative Years." The selected paintings illustrate how his style developed over the early years of his painting career. During the 1840s he painted portraits of numerous prominent East Liverpool citizens and later concentrated on scenes of everyday life. These genre paintings, which often showed the seamy side of urban living in the nineteenth century, were the ones for which he eventually became best known.

The Blythe exhibition at the East Liverpool Museum of Ceramics is jointly sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society, the East Liverpool Historical Society, and the East Liverpool Carnegie Public Library. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 12 - 5 p.m. Sunday.

## OSU Offers Summer History Courses

The Ohio State University is offering two courses this summer through the Continuing Education Department which might be of interest to Society members.

**OHIO HISTORY WORKSHOP.** Offered in conjunction with the Ohio Historical Society, this workshop (#692) is directed mainly toward social studies teachers, but others are encouraged to attend. Classes will be held daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Historical Center in Columbus from July 13 to July 28. The workshop will be directed by Richard Hopkins, a professor in Ohio State's history department. (5 credits)

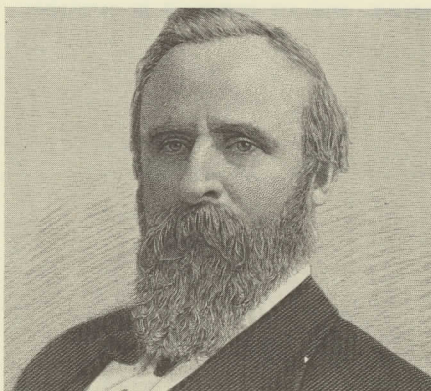
**DISCOVERING NEIGHBORHOODS/LOCAL HISTORY.** Also taught by Professor Hopkins, this class (#294B) will be held at OSU's main campus in Columbus from August 10 to August 28, 9 a.m. daily. (3 credits)

For more information, or to register for any of these classes, please call the Continuing Education Department at Ohio State, (614) 422-8860.

## IN BRIEF

Plans to complete the microfilming of the Papers of Rutherford B. Hayes, the nineteenth president of the United States, were announced in March by Dr. Leslie H. Fishel, jr., Director of the Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont. The Center received a grant for this purpose from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a division of the National Archives.

The project began two years ago. Since then the documents have been assembled and prepared for filming. The microfilm edition will be over 300 rolls long (approximately 1,000 images per roll), containing 170 linear feet of material. Of special interest is Hayes' personal diary; he made faithful entries beginning in his childhood until his death in 1893. When the project is completed in 1982, copies of the 300 rolls, along with a printed guide describing the material and its general location on film, will be offered to research libraries and institutions.



## Staff Appointment Announced

James D. Strider has been appointed to head the new Local and Regional History Planning efforts at the Ohio Historical Society. Mr. Strider, presently Director of the Summit County Historical Society in Akron where he has been since January 1977, will develop programs focusing on local and regional history throughout the state.

A graduate of Wabash College, where he was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa scholastic honorary society, Mr. Strider holds a Master's degree in history from the University of Delaware. At Delaware, he was awarded the Hagley Fellowship for the study of history and the administration of historical agencies. He is Regional Chairman of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums and Vice President of the Ohio Canal Society. He will assume responsibilities with the Ohio Historical Society in mid-June.

## At OHS Library

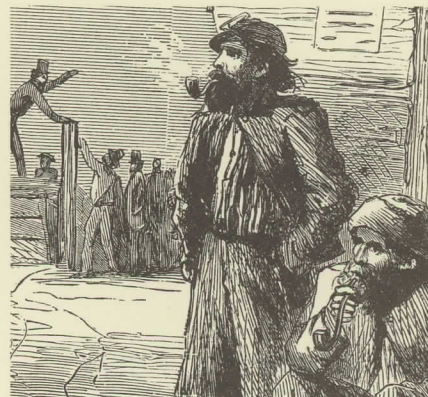
Library staff member Jim Murphy has prepared the following list of recent acquisitions of the Ohio Historical Center library.

*The Collectors Encyclopedia of Hull Pottery.* By Brenda Roberts. An attractively published guide to the remarkably diverse ceramic products of Crooksville, Ohio's Hull Pottery, the volume includes reproductions of numerous company brochures, as well as more than 100 color plates illustrating the author's private collection of Hull products. A history of the company from 1905 to the present, as well as data on company trademarks, numbering systems, and lines and dates of manufacture, rounds out the book. Collector Books, Paducah, Kentucky, 1980.

*Gallia County Ohio: People in History to 1980.* The Gallia County Historical Society, Mary Allison and Henrietta Evans, Co-Chairmen. Primarily a compilation of family sketches, this book will be of considerable interest to anyone with roots in Gallia County. An able but all too brief history of Gallia County, written by Ivan M. Tribe, enhances the work. A second volume of "topical history" is planned. Taylor Publishing Co., Paoli, Pennsylvania, 1980.

*Black Artists in the United States: An Annotated Bibliography of Books, Articles, and Dissertations on Black Artists, 1779-1979.* By Lenwood G. Davis and Janet L. Sims. The authors provide a useful starting point for anyone engaged in the study of black artists and their work. The 476 entries include major books, general books, major articles, general articles (by far the largest segment), and dissertations, forming a bibliography that is termed "relatively definitive" in the foreword. Greenwood Press, Westport, Connecticut, 1980.

*The Village: A History of Germantown, Ohio, 1804-1976.* By Carl M. Becker. For nearly 150 years, Germantown, a small rural settlement near Dayton, remained a remarkably cohesive and stable community, of Pennsylvania German extraction, gaining its livelihood from the processing and marketing of locally grown tobacco. Dr. Becker details the impact that twentieth-century technology, two world wars, and the intervening depression had on village life, finding that after World War II an influx of younger people from nearby industrial cities promoted changes that have made a new village given to divisiveness, formality, and impersonality. A fine selection of historic Germantown photographs is included. The Historical Society of Germantown, 1981.





## AROUND THE STATE

An **Encampment of the Brigade of the American Revolution** will be held July 18 and 19 at Hale Farm and Village. British and American camps will be set up reflecting the life of the Revolutionary War soldier. Eighteenth-century crafts will be demonstrated and a battle will be staged daily. The grounds will open at 9 a.m. for this event. For details, call (216) 861-4573 or (216) 666-3711.

The **Third Annual Black Powder Shoot** will be held July 25 and 26 at Unusual Junction. All those interested in primitive weapons are invited to attend. Prizes will be awarded for marksmanship and best costumes. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. Shops, food, and campgrounds will be available. Unusual Junction is located on Route 36, eight miles west of I-77 and ten miles east of Roscoe Village. For more information call (614) 545-6007 or (614) 545-9061.

The **Center of Science and Industry** in Columbus will be involved in Super Summer Science Show '81 throughout the summer months. The featured demonstration, "Eyes of Science," depicts the role of science in man's understanding of the world. Exhibits on anamorphic art from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a working beehive, and "Art by Computer" will also be on display. Workshops and films have been scheduled until the end of August. For more information, contact Pamela A. Shipp, COSI, 280 East Broad St., Columbus, 43215, (614) 228-6362.

A new printing of **Names For New Land: Legends and History of Place Naming in Guernsey, Belmont, Noble and Monroe Counties, Ohio**, by F. A. Morgan, is now available. The new version is thirty-nine pages long and contains considerable new material, sources, and an index. It is available

from Home Towner Printing, Quaker City, Ohio 43773, (614) 679-2796, for \$2.50 (add 35 cents for postage and handling; Ohio residents add Ohio sales tax).

The first new history in several years concerning Putnam County pioneers is being offered by its author, Marguerite Calvin. Based on a series of articles which appeared in the *Putnam County Sentinel* during the bicentennial, **People and Places, Putnam County, Ohio, 1800-1900** has been revised and rewritten by the author. The book is illustrated with woodcuts, and it is available from the author at 720 East Second St., Ottawa, Ohio 45875 for \$18.95 (plus \$1.75 postage and handling).

(ISSN 0012-933X)

Ohio Historical Center Columbus, Ohio 43211

ECHOES

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE  
PAID AT COLUMBUS, OHIO



# Ballroom's Revival Brings Excitement

By Sara Carroll  
Of The Dispatch Staff

Satin, chiffon and furs were reflected throughout the Valley Dale Ballroom as the big silver ball rotated overhead and a hum of excitement pervaded the room.

After many months of darkness while renovation and refurbishing were under way, the grand old dame of Columbus dance floors was lighted up again Friday night.

The people who had been flocking there for many years returned to rejoice in the new decor (not yet completed), but mostly to hear the Chuck Selby orchestra once again.

MORE THAN 800 devotees crowded the dance floor as vocalists Ann Young (Selby's widow) and Marilyn Daye provided everything from ballroom ballads to Bourbon Street blues.

Spook Beckman emceed the first of numerous dances scheduled in the coming months and it was highly successful, if attendance and enthusiasm count for anything.

It was not, however, the grand opening night, according to manager Mike Peppe.

"We actually have had to postpone the grand opening three times," Peppe said. "But our purpose in opening tonight is to keep the name before the public. When we really get going, we plan regular dances and big band names. It has just taken much longer

than we planned. But all city requirements are being met."

Some of those requirements include installation of a sprinkler system, several additional exit doors, new fire-retardant carpeting on the stairs and in the bar and lounge areas.

According to some of the regulars interviewed, "The place looks 100 percent better than when they closed it down. It even looks a lot better from the outside."

TWO OF THE habitués were Fred and Betty Persinger who still shake a mean leg and hip, despite their long tenure.

Persinger, a retired Borden employee, said, "I've actually been coming here since I was a very young boy in 1927. Then Betty and I started attending together in 1932."

"In those early days, they had two bands. There was the 'Moonlight Gardens' outside. They didn't sell anything but soft drinks. We'd come back in the building to get our drinks and they'd also hand us a piece of newspaper to sit on the grass outside, during intermission."

"We have a lot of souvenirs," Betty added. "Some of the old tickets we have show a charge of 75 cents a couple on Saturday night and 50 cents during the week."

The Persingers dipped deeply into nostalgia as they fondly recalled Ben Bernie... "he always dressed entirely in white and always strolled through

the crowd before the orchestra began playing. Kay Kayser, used to stand at the edge of the stage and let himself fall back off the stage into the waiting arms of the dancers... People filled the place for so many years, especially when they had regular radio broadcasts from here. That was exciting."

PEPPE SHOWED us those glass-enclosed booths overlooking all the action high above the dance floor and one could almost hear a whisper out of the past, "And now, from the beautiful Valley Dale Ballroom in Columbus, Ohio, we bring you — Cab Calloway and his orchestra!"

Calloway, Duke Ellington, Harry James, Charlie Barnett, Benny Goodman, the Dorseys — dozens of big bands have provided hundreds of hours of dancing for thousands of fans — and the Peppes would like to have it that way again.

Former Valley Dale bartender Mick Sullivan said "I wouldn't have missed this for the world. I'm retired now, but I was bartender here for 27 years and I have seen a lot of famous people, and some good times and bad times."

"There wasn't any air conditioning then," Sullivan continued, "but nobody seemed to mind. They'd just run outside every once in a while to cool off. Then, if it had been raining, we'd sometimes have to squeegee off the

floor before dancing could begin again. It was fun, always fun, no matter what you had to do."

Asked which, of all the big bands he'd heard, was his favorite, he promptly replied, "Chuck Selby's. It was a really good band and he was one of the nicest men I've ever known."

PEPPE SAID much more was going to be done, and specifically mentioned that they had not had time to get the dance floor cleaned and waxed properly, but that and many other items were in the works. At this writing, Peppe said a target date was in June, but "If I be realistic about it, it will probably be much later. But we are going to have real bash then, probably late summer."

Sara Allen, Mayme Lawler and Norma Thacker, interviewed on the way in, concurred that "The place looks so much better than it did, even if they're not quite finished. We'll keep on coming back as long as they have dances."

All three are among the long-term attendees... "Oh, 30 years I've been dancing here, I guess." When Mrs. Allen was asked, "Are you going to jitterbug tonight?" she brushed back her beautifully coiffed silver hair and smiled mischievously, "You're darned right, I'm gonna jitterbug!"

As Kay Keyser would say, "Come on, children, let's dance."



Dispatch Photo by Ken Chamberlain

THE VALLEY DALE dance floor was crowded again Friday night as more than 800 people turned out to hear the Chuck Selby band and

catch a preview of what the refurbished ballroom will be like when it reopens this summer (More photos on Page C-7).

890-2385  
RAINTREE  
12.3

\$2.00  
TUI  
6.00

CINEMA ONE

RAY TOMLIN

CINEMA TWO

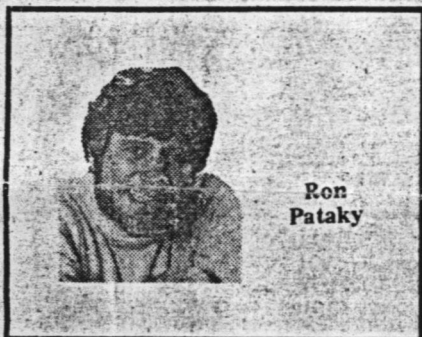


**Inside:** Dining out ..... Page 10  
Flick picks ..... Page 11

# ng elegy for historic ballroom

## An open letter to Mayor Tom Moody

Virtually every great band in the history of American music has appeared there at one time or another. In fact, there was a time, in the heyday of the big bands, when TWO network radio shows, by CBS



Ron Pataky

and NBC, were broadcast simultaneously coast to coast from Valley Dale.

History of the location actually goes back to the early 1800s, when a tavern and inn stood on the site now occupied by Valley Dale. A toll road running from Sunbury to Columbus crossed the back of the site where St. Mary of the Springs now stands.

Farmers from out that way would bring their produce into Columbus, to either Central or East Market. Returning too late in the day to complete the round trip, they would stop overnight at the tavern, resting their horses and continuing homeward the following morning.

The tavern became a ballroom in 1918, burned to the ground New Year's Eve of 1922 and was rebuilt as the present structure in 1924.

Jim and Lou Peppe leased the building in 1932 (48 years ago), and finally purchased it in 1938. It was remodeled in 1941, supposedly as an exact replica of Frank Daley's famed Meadowbrook in New Jersey. (Daley managed Valley Dale that year).

Lou Peppe stayed on here to manage it. Brother Jim went to New York, where, as head of the band department of CBS, he had an inside track on what would later be the booking here of every name band of the day.

They all came: Tommy and

Jimmy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Artie Shaw, Guy Lombardo, Kay Kyser, Ozzie Nelson with vocalist Harriet Hilliard, Woody Herman, Glen Gray and his Casa Loma, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong. You name 'em. They played Valley Dale.

More often than not, their Valley Dale stints were broadcast coast to coast, making the Columbus ballroom among the most famous in the country.

You want to talk about history? This, Mr. Mayor, is the real thing.

Valley Dale has fallen on rough times. Specifically, the city of Columbus has condemned the building and apparently wants it closed.

While the Peppe family is every bit as concerned about the safety of its patrons as the city ever will be, they've already begun by tearing out the rotted outdoor steps as dictated by the city — some compromise is going to be necessary if the Dale is to remain open.

You simply cannot turn a 1924 building into a 1980 building. That's the crux of the issue. Moreover, what sane person would want to? The Valley Dale is only a historic landmark as long as it remains the Valley Dale.

No one is suggesting that any compromise be made where public safety is concerned, mind you. But

nitpicking is nitpicking, and the fact that the city's biggest gripe seems to be that this is a wooden structure seems just that. (I'd be happy to point out a few other wooden structures presently doing business in the city.)

In this particular wooden structure, there are *eight* huge double-door fire exits. As I understand it, the Peppes agree completely with the need for a sprinkler system — in fact, with most of the demands made by the city in the interest of public safety.

On the other hand, there seems to me to be some sort of vendetta on the part of the city to close the place under any circumstances. The city doesn't seem to want to cooperate at all in assisting the owners towards compliance. It's as if city officials want the place closed and have closed their minds accordingly.

This would be a big mistake, Mr. Mayor. A big mistake. Believe me when I say that fervent fans of Valley Dale still number way up in the thousands. And being both candid and pragmatic, most of them vote.

Let's make certain Valley Dale patrons will always be safe at any cost.

But let's also make certain the historic old ballroom is saved for future generations.



ENTER — The front entrance from the parking lot.



# t.g.i.f.

## Valley Dale

### City Council is preparing elegy

By RON PATAKY

Citizen-Journal Entertainment Editor

Dear Mayor Moody:

Hope your Paris trip is going well.

Meanwhile, back home here, some things are happening that I think you should know about.

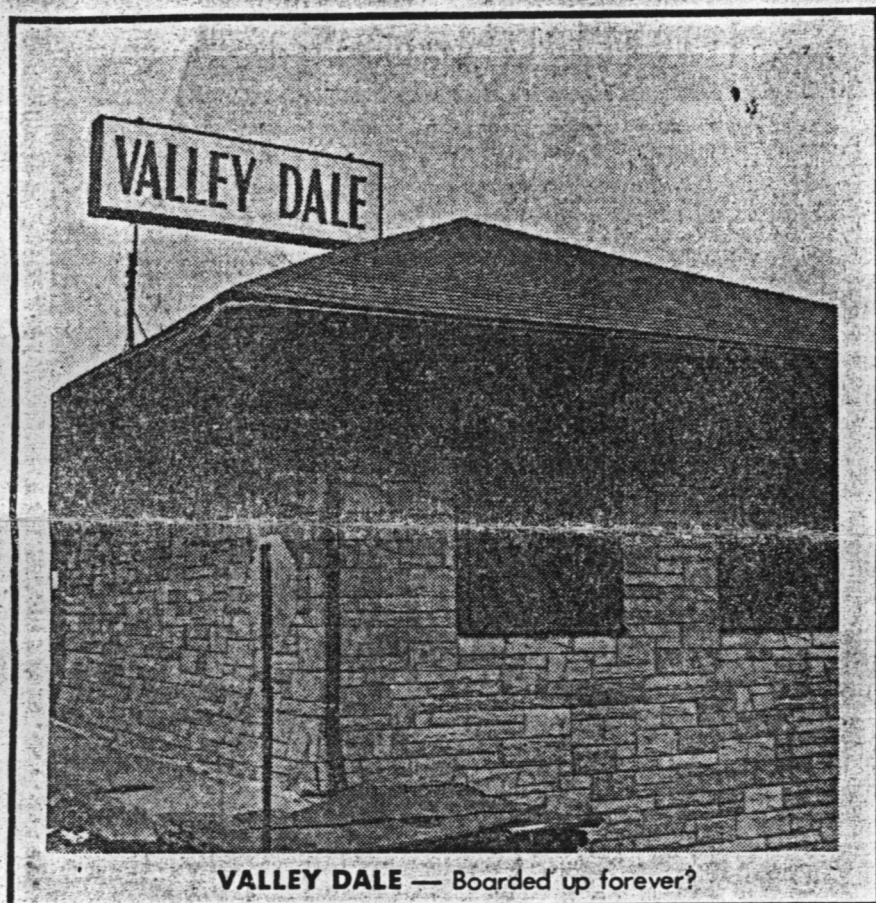
The recent hullabaloo concerning the to be or not to be of City Hall Annex was interesting — more for its much ado about nothing than anything else but interesting nonetheless.

Even more interesting, however, is the fact that while the pros and cons of the ugly downtown structure were being argued, another building, this one of *genuine historic interest* to more people than you will ever know, stands in imminent danger of being lost forever to the thousands of people of this city who've enjoyed its presence for more than half a century.

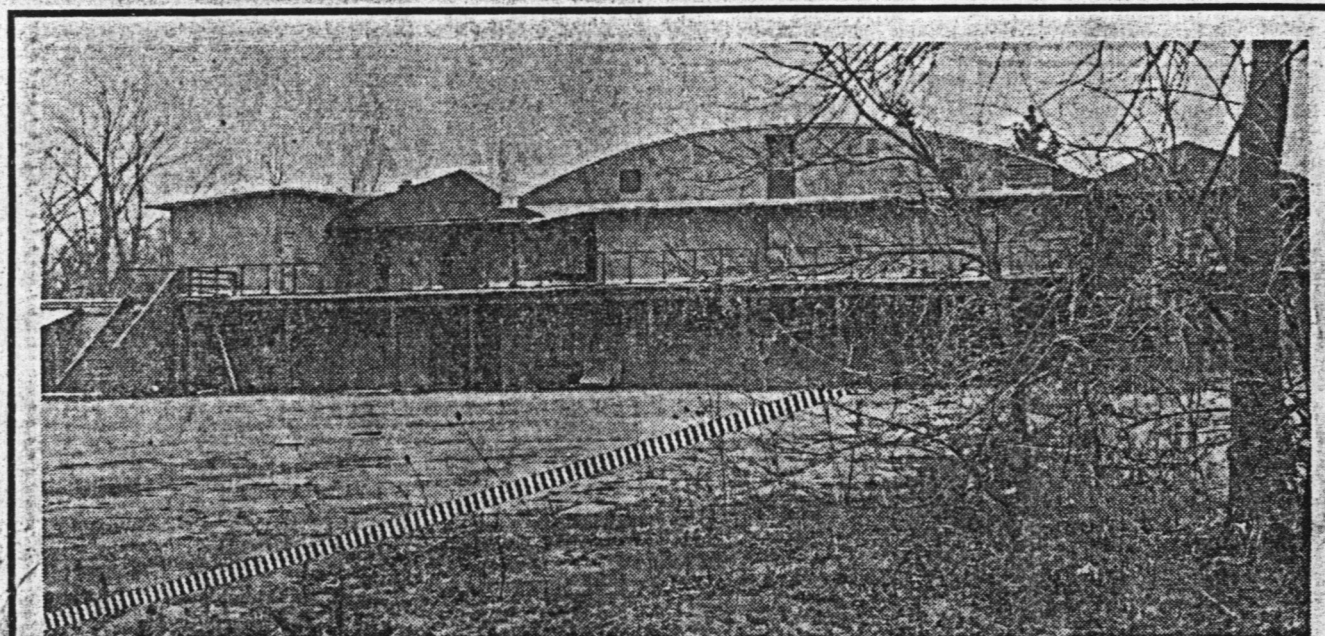
And if you'll pardon my saying so, sir, I don't think you know anything about it.

Perhaps you should.

I'm speaking of Valley Dale, a ballroom that has been bringing joy to area couples since 1918 and which, as far as anyone has been able to determine, is the last of the great American ballrooms still in existence.



VALLEY DALE — Boarded up forever?



DARK PAST — Outlined is the outdoor dance pavilion, where generations have danced beneath

the stars for more than five decades to the music of America's biggest bands.

Virtually every history of America appeared there. In fact, the heyday of the TWO network ran



and NBC, were. I neously coast to Dale.

History of the goes back to the tavern and inn st occupied by Valle running from Su crossed the back St. Mary of the S

Farmers from would bring the Columbus, to eith Market. Returni day to complete would stop over resting their hom homeward the fo

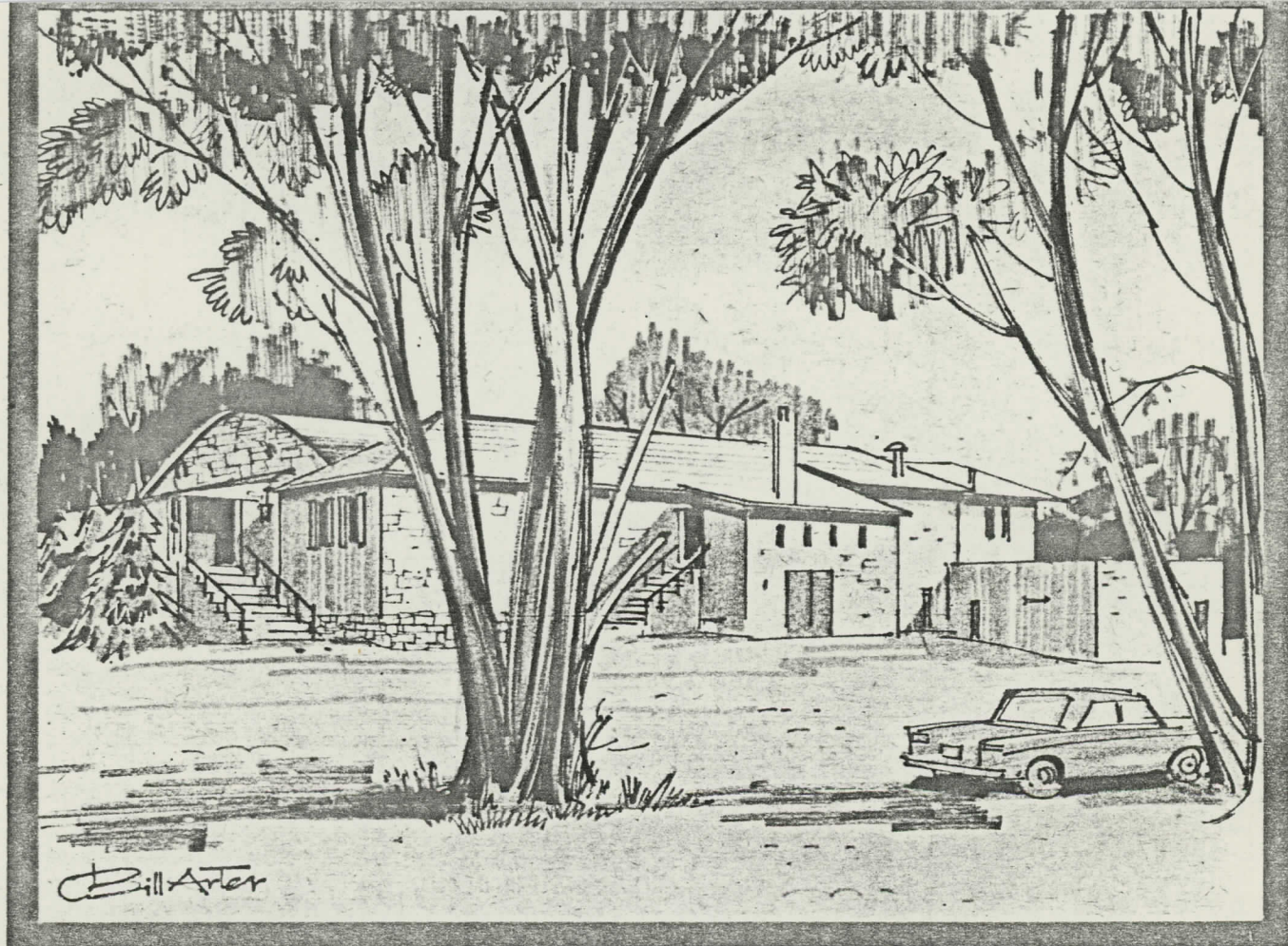
The tavern be 1918, burned to Year's Eve of 19 as the present st

Jim and Lou building in 1932 finally purchased remodeled in 194 exact replica of famed Meadowb sey. (Daley man that year).

Lou Peppe s manage it Broth York, where, as department of CE track on what w booking here of e the day.

They all can





## Columbus Vignettes

By BILL ARTER

# Valley Dale

"NO SPOT was so dear to our childhood" as this rambling structure on Sunbury Road. "Childhood," in this case, means from 15 to 20-some. For this was, indeed, a place of youthful dreams, of great music, of dancing and romancing. This was Valley Dale.

Lou Peppe tells me that the site has always been occupied by a place of entertainment. For a hundred years or more some sort of tavern has stood there to break the long journey down the pike from Sunbury to Columbus. A Mr. Melencon first built a ballroom there, in the '10s of this century. It burned to the ground, but he rebuilt. In the '20s it was leased by a Columbus group, Mid-States Amusement Company. The dance floor and outdoor garden became a mecca for the younger set. An evening at the Dale combined a pleasant auto ride into the country, some hours of delightful dancing and an even more pleasant ride home—sometimes by moonlight.

In 1933 the Peppe family took over the Dale. Jim went to New York in 1935, but Lou became active manager and bought it in 1938. It was the heyday of the big name bands. Practically all of them played the Dale. Kay

Keyser, who later became one of the greatest radio sensations of the radio age, played an entire summer. The fabulously durable Guy Lombardo played there. Tommy Dorsey came, and thousands crowded in to hear him. The "King," Benny Goodman, attracted even larger crowds. Hal Kemp and Sammy Kaye and all the others came—and drew crowds as large as 3000.

In the late '30s some of the greatest music was broadcast nationally from Frank Daley's "Meadowbrook, in Cedar Grove, New Jersey." So it was pretty exciting to hear that Daley had leased the Dale. With a lavish hand he remodeled it into a plush supper club.

Daley opened in October, 1941. CBS had permanent studios set up on the premises, and the whole nation soon knew Valley Dale. Enormous crowds stormed the place. It was like having New York moved into Columbus . . . then came December 7 and Pearl Harbor. For a time the Dale continued under Daley. But gas rationing and assorted complications set in and Daley gave up in June, 1942. In recent years it has operated as a ballroom and meeting hall managed by bandsman Chuck Selby.



Authenticated List of Big Bands Appearing at Valley Dale  
AUTHENTICATED LIST OF BIG BANDS APPEARING AT VALLEY DALE

COLUMBUS, OHIO

(Compiled from newspaper advertisements by Phil Sheridan)

|                           |                |                       |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Alvino Rey & King Sisters | Guy Lombardo   | Jan Garber            |
| Claude Hopkins            | Duke Ellington | Anson Weeks           |
| Fletcher Henderson        | Ted Weems      | Will Osborne          |
| Les Brown                 | Benny Goodman  | Tommy Dorsey          |
| Jack Teagarden            | Jan Savitt     | Bunny Berigan         |
| Isham Jones               | Sammy Kaye     | Fats Waller           |
| Frankie Masters           | Red Norvo      | Jimmy Dorsey          |
| Ted Fio Rito              | Glenn Miller   | Bob Crosby            |
| Bob Chester               | Horace Heidt   | Henry Busse           |
| Ben Birnie                | Kay Kyser      | Vincent Lopez         |
| Earl "Fatha" Hines        | Cab Calloway   | Dick Stabile          |
| Artie Shaw                | Hal Kemp       | Glen Gray             |
| Shep Fields               | Russ Morgan    | Chales "Buddy" Rogers |
| Paul Whiteman             | Charlie Spivak | Charlie Barnet        |
| Ina Ray Hutton            | Ben Pollack    | Jimmie Lunceford      |
| Bobby Byrne               | Al Donahue     | Tommy Tucker          |
| Bonny Dunham              | Bobby Sherwood | Will Bradley          |
| Rudy Valee                | George Olsen   | Ink Spots             |

and, of course, Columbus' own Earl Hood Orchestra, the Dale's house band for many years.

\* Those bands listed are known to have played Valley Dale, many of them more than once. Others will be added when their appearances can be authenticated in black and white.