



Anna District
Historical Society
Anna • Kettlersville • McCartyville

Skipping Village Gazette

Milliette Auditorium?

Written by Carol Wentz



Dr. Milliette, 1947

This past March many Anna School District residents attended the annual high school musical, *The Little Mermaid*. Those of us who were there for this enjoyable show passed through one of two doorways marked “Milliette Auditorium.” Few,

if any of us, thought about how our auditorium came to be named Milliette. But who was this person, and why was he important enough to be recognized in this way?

Delphis Russell Milliette, M.D. served as the friendly town doctor in the village of Anna, his hometown, for over fifty years, beginning after his graduation in 1903 from the Medical College of Ohio at the University of Cincinnati. Shortly after setting up his medical practice in Anna, Dr. Milliette was asked to serve on the Anna school board, which he did as either president or clerk of

the board for at least 40 years. As the village doctor, Dr. Milliette delivered over 1400 babies and then watched years later as many of those babies graduated from Anna High School. Over his many years as a school board member, he signed 678 diplomas.



This house, owned today by the Frilling family, was once Dr. Millette’s office and home. It is located on the corner of Main and North Streets in Anna. Note that the Packer Historical Center is one house to the east.

Dr. Milliette began his life in Logan County where he was born, but his French American family moved to the Anna community when he was only three months old. He went to several little red school houses in the vicinity before entering high school where he was a member of the very first class to graduate from Anna High School.

Following his graduation from high school, Dr. Milliette took the teachers’ examination. He thought that he could earn enough money to later enter medical school. He taught school for the next seven years, earning \$30 a month.

After moving back to Anna with his medical

Welcome to our newest ADHS members...

*Tony Luthman, Gary and Kelly Schmitmeyer,
Nila Elsass*

Welcome and thanks for your generous support of the Anna District Historical Society! (Please let us know if we have inadvertently missed your name, and we will add it to our next newsletter list.)

degree in hand, he married a school teacher, Lella. Two of his three children were also teachers, Sister Agnes Ellen and Miss Agnes Milliette. His son, Gerald, became a prominent orthodontist in Milwaukee.

In the mid-twenties, Anna built a new school building to replace the antiquated one in order to retain their grade A rating with the state of Ohio. It would have served the community for many years had it not been for the earthquake on March 2, 1937 and the strong aftershocks which followed. The building, which was only ten years old, was condemned as unsafe and had to be torn down. Classes continued that year in several houses on Main Street, one of which was Dr. Milliette's.

Thankfully, Dr. Milliette had noticed his medicine

bottles rattling a couple of times in the early thirties and proceeded to check out the possibility of earthquakes in the Anna area. As a member of the school board, he shared with the other members what he had learned and insisted that the school purchase earthquake insurance because of the high probability of damaging earthquakes occurring in Anna. Due to his foresight, the board had only invested \$90 on a \$30,000 insurance policy when the 1937 earthquake damaged beyond repair the relatively new school building.

This nest egg of \$30,000 enabled the community to have a new school constructed and ready for students by the beginning of the 1938 school year. This time the walls were constructed to withstand another earthquake. This is the same building in use today as the "old part" of the school. Obviously, the Milliette Auditorium which was first built as a gym in



HELP US PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

Please consider becoming a member of the Anna District Historical Society.

Name of member _____

Name of spouse (family memberships) _____

Children under 18 (family memberships) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dr. Milliette Level _____ (\$50 per month)

Anna Carey Thirkield Level _____ (\$25 per month)

Lois Lenski Level _____ (\$10 per month)

Single Membership - \$20 yearly _____

Family Membership - \$25 yearly _____

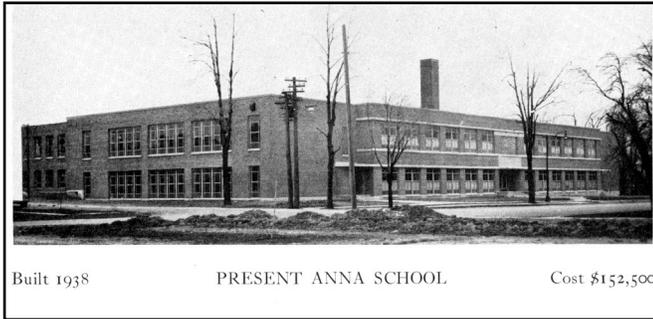
Lifetime Membership - \$500 _____

Mail to: ANNA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 133, Anna, OH 45302

The ADHS is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and your donation may be tax deductible. Level giving may be automatically deducted each month from your checking account. Please ask Susie Bertsch (937.394.3072) for details.

1938 is also still in use, and we owe that in large part to Dr. Milliette.

The canceled \$30,000 check from the Hartford Insurance Company that hung framed in Dr. Milliette's office for the rest of his career was a testament to his dedication and pride in the school and community he served for so many, many years.



Anna School as it appeared in 1938

Calling All Crafters and Quilters!

In anticipation of this year's "Christmas on Main" event, we are asking anyone who likes to do crafting to begin making items to donate for this coming November. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Bertsch at 937.361.2486.

Our events committee is also thinking of sponsoring a quilt show at the Packer Historical Center. If anyone has a quilt(s) they would like to be a part of the display, especially quilts with an interesting story, please leave a message with your name and contact information at the Packer Historical Center at 937.646.0011. The committee will determine if there is enough interest to move forward with this idea.

New Display at the PHC

A new display is now in place at the Packer Historical Center. This new display of historical artifacts focuses on fashions of the past.

All kinds of dresses, suits, hats, and accessories from different eras make for an interesting look back at how people from our school district dressed in the past. Don't miss it! Our hours presently are Sunday

afternoons from 1pm-4pm. Or call for a private tour scheduled at your convenience.



Anna District Historical Society

112 West Main Street

P.O. Box 133

Anna, OH 45302

POSTAL CUSTOMER

ANNA, OH 45302

adhs-oh.org

The ADHS has a new website created by Curtis Hill, a student at the Upper Valley Career Center, and his multi-media teacher, Susan Caudill. While we are still in the process of adding content, there are already several items for you to check out:

- Previous Skipping Village newsletters
- Video interviews with veterans Ralph Bornhorst and John Koverman
- Bob Anderson's coaching years scrapbooks
- Application for membership
- Collection of some historical photos

Please take a few moments to check out the content we already have on the new website.

Anna District Historical Society

112 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 133

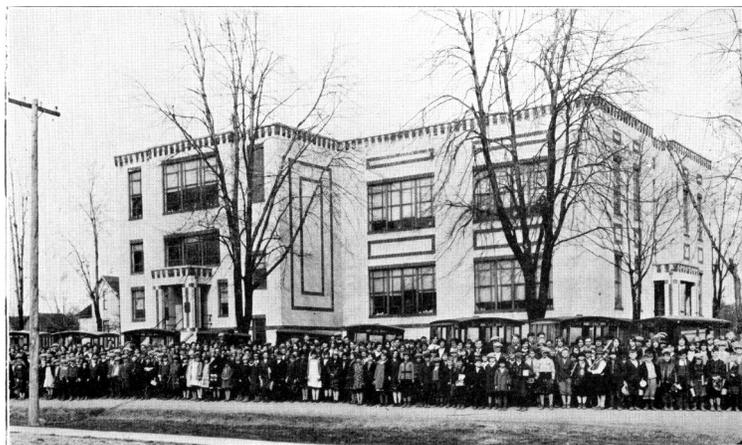
Anna, OH 45302

Phone: 937-646-0011

Packer Historical Center Hours

Sundays 1-4pm

Anna Local Schools...



Built 1926

SECOND BUILDING

Cost \$55,000

Destroyed by 1937 Earthquakes



FIRST BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE IN ANNA

Built 1883 ; condemned 1926. Cost \$7,513.40