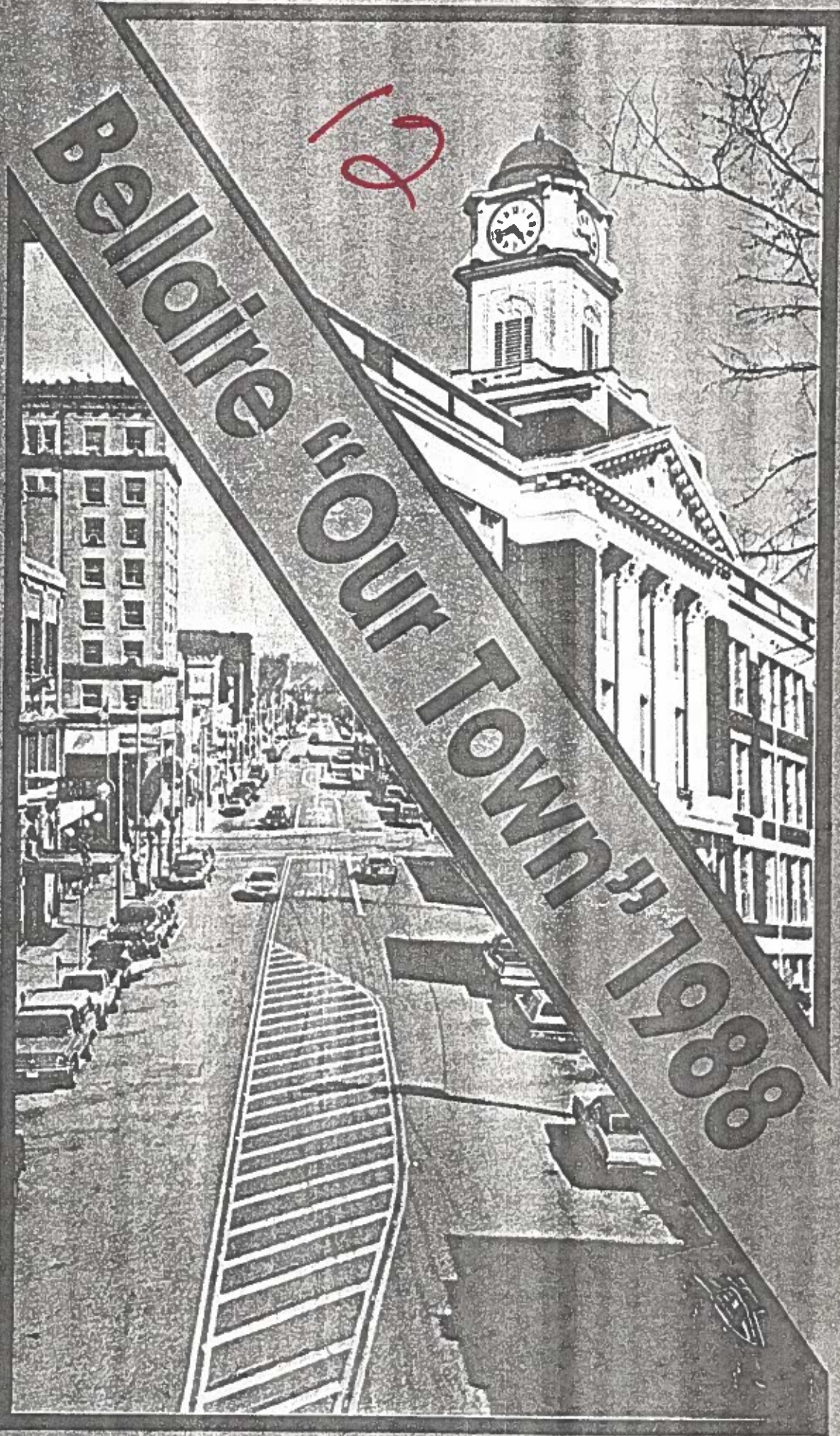


Belleville
FROM TOWN
1988

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Bellaire's colorful past

BELLAIRE'S FIRST permanent settlement is dated from 1803, when Jacob Davis, a native of Bel Air, Md., built a cabin on what is now West 23rd Street, near McMahon's Creek. Davis bought his land from John Duer, who obtained a land grant in Steubenville but never developed the land.

The town site was laid out by Davis and his sons in 1834, centering in the area north and south of McMahon's Creek. In 1860, the village was incorporated with the formal organization of a municipal government and allied services.

Coal mines, glass plants and foundries brought settlers in growing numbers to Bellaire and the arrival of the Central Ohio Railroad from Columbus in 1856 added another dimension to travel by river and horse. The completion of the Stone Bridge in 1871 linked the Central Ohio Railroad in the west with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the east and spurred the growth of both industry and population. Before opening the bridge, it became necessary to transport rail freight and passengers across the river by steamboat.

Bellaire became a city in 1973. At one time, the city supported 17 glass plants, which gave the town its nickname, "Glass City." The last remaining glass manufacturer, Imperial Glass Corp., was unable to reorganize under chapter 11 bankruptcy laws and was forced to close in 1984. However, Anna Maroon, president of Maroon Enterprises of Bridgeport, bought the property in 1985 and began researching plans to turn the site into a glass-based tourist attraction. A flea market is held regularly at the building, which also houses a ceramics business.

Coal mining, basic steel and the steel fabrication industries flourish in the area surrounding Bellaire. The city is located between important metropolitan areas, such as New York City, Chicago, Cleveland and Washington D.C., so the Bellaire area is near the major markets in the eastern half of the nation.

The city's greatest resources are its people who are warm, friendly, cooperative and skilled enough to offer a vast reservoir of potential to incoming industry and business. The Stone

Bridge remains the city's best-known landmark and has served as a major east-west connection for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and its successor, the Chessie System.

The city is noted as the site of The House that Jack Built, a mansion built by Jacob Heatherington on South Belmont Street in 1837. Heatherington was one of the area's early coal barons who came to Bellaire from Wales and founded a successful coal business. He used his wealth not only to build his mansion, but to help start several other businesses, including iron foundries and to build Bellaire's first horse-drawn trolley line which connected the north and south ends of town.

"Jack" was Heatherington's mule who carried the necessary building materials for the house from the Ohio River to the mansion site. Local legend states the house was built with extra wide doors and staircases so Jack could be the first creature to go through the completed house. Since Jack did all the work, he should be the first to see the fruits of his labors, Heatherington reasoned.

After the Heatherington family sold the mansion, it passed through the hands of a number of uncaring landlords until it was destroyed several years ago to make way for the Shady Bell Motel. The only memorials left of the once proud homestead are the cornerstone, bearing a likeness of the mule, which is now located in the Bellaire Public Library, and a five-foot scale model of the house made by Nancy Duggan of Shadyside. The model is in the Bellaire Glass Museum.

Bellaire extends along the banks of the Ohio River for 3.5 miles and encompasses an area of 2.5 square miles. The city supports several small industries including Triple A in the U.S.A. garment factory, Delta Concrete, and loading docks for R and F Coal, Cravat Coal and Marietta Coal companies.

Bellaire was once a center for the glassmaking industry with 17 glass plants. Imperial Glass Corp. has produced reproductions for the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institution.

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