



Educational Farm & Nature Preserve

Legacy Series

An ongoing series of articles recounting the history of the Stratford Ecological Center and the Warner family

Legacy Series: Part 6 July, 2011



Continuing with the story of Gale Warner's Delaware County roots...

Gale Warner

Although neither of Gale's parents lived in Delaware County, there were strong ties through her mother, Louise Oman Warner. Born in 1930, Louise was reared and schooled in Clintonville (north Columbus). Her parents were Mary Caroline Hills Oman and Galen Francis Oman (see last month's Legacy Series article). When Louise was a youngster, a weekly weekend trip to Delaware – via Model-A Ford (in the rumble seat) or the interurban railway – to visit grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins was eagerly anticipated. The majestic Hills home at 120 North Washington Street was a child's playground dream – with secret places to hide in the multiple bedrooms and turret. Especially treasured were the trips to Crystal Spring Farm on Clear Run Road. There, Louise and her Delaware cousins would drink from the spring (where the milk was cooled), find leaches and other critters in the creek, and gather hickory nuts.

Louise was a 1947 graduate of Columbus North High School, and received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biological Sciences from Ohio State University (OSU) in 1951. She then attended Medical School at OSU, graduating in 1955.

Gale's father, E. Jackson Warner, was born in 1930. Reared on a dairy farm in Darke County, Ohio, Jack had decided at an early age that he would be a physician. His father, Paul C. Warner, Sr., served as Principal of Greenville High School for many years, but was also a serious farmer. Jack and his three siblings learned at an early age the joys (and challenges) of farming (without chemicals in those days). Jack helped with all chores and knew very well how to handle a hoe. At age 12, while trying to rein in a run-away team of horses pulling a disk, he fell off the seat; the disk bumped over him, nearly killing him. (The team was soon replaced with a tractor.) However, even after that experience, farming – as a second profession – was always a dream of his.

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Jack attended OSU in an accelerated undergraduate/graduate program, where he met his future wife, Louise; they were married in 1953, with Jack also graduating from Medical School in 1955. Following internship in Dayton and Jack's 2-year stint in the Army, both Louise and Jack pursued a residency in Anesthesiology at OSU, and joined the staff of Columbus Children's Hospital in 1960. Gale's brother, David Oman Warner, was born in 1957, and Gale arrived in 1960.



Dr. Jack Warner
1955



Gale Warner, 6 months
David Warner 3 ½ years
1960



Dr. Louise Warner
1955