

VILLAGE OF GLENDALE

GLENDALE, OHIO 45246

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 14, 1981

To: Mr. Dan Weber
Warner Amex

Dan,

Mr. Matthews guest for the Mayor's Forum program that is set for January 7th, will be Mr. James Carruthers. Mr. Carruthers has been a life-long resident of Glendale and served as Mayor from 1934 until January 1976, 42 years. Mr. Carruthers still remains active in the community and is presently Chairman of Glendale's Planning Commission.

Q. Mr. Carruthers, how did you become Mayor of Glendale?

A. The Mayor at that time was Jim Cleveland and he talked me into running for the office of Mayor. Prior to that time I had been active in the community but I had never attended a council meeting.

Q. Could you tell us a little about Glendale when you took office?

A. I took office during the depression era and Glendale was like other communities in that we had a high unemployment rate. Prior to becoming Mayor, Jim Cleveland asked me if I would be the Unemployment Commissioner of Glendale. After I accepted the position, Jim told me the Village did not have the money to fund the program so I was on my own. The three things that I went after were (1) coal (2) food (3) employment. There were a couple of families in the community that really came through for us. At that time there was no such thing as welfare so we in the village tried to take care of our own residents.

The same program was carried over when I became Mayor and a similiar program still exist. In those early years, we had a population of 2500 and I believe we now have approximately 2300 residents. In addition we had an operating budget of \$25,000, one police officer, no garbage collection and there was not a sewage disposal plant.

Q. Harry, could you contrast this with what you experienced when you took office.

A. I guess one of the biggest problems I have had to face is inflation. In addition, we had an energy crunch which threatened to remove half of our street lighting because they used gas. We are also being confronted with EPA Standards which effect our sewage disposal and our trash disposal methods.

Q. Mr. Carruthers, what were some of the jobs you were able to find for the unemployed residents?

A. Prior to taking office, I hired three private police officers to patrol the Village during the night, and we eventually hired four garbage collectors to help keep the village clean. It was also during the 30's that we built the athletic field with a running track around it, resurfaced most of Glendale's streets and constructed the sewage plant as part of a WPA project. The foreman would keep a record of the hours worked and the workers would be paid in food.

Q.

Q. What Jim is describing sounds something like the present day CETA program. Does it sound that way to you, Harry?

A. I believe the difference in the two programs was the intent of each. From my understanding, the WPA project was to provide jobs by making civic improvements. The focal point of the CETA program, as I see it, was to teach some basic job skills that would assist the participant in finding employment. So, while CETA did provide employment, its main emphasis was on training.

Q. Mr. Carruthers, you mentioned that your original budget was \$25,000 (approximately) per year. Where did your taxes come from at that time.

A. The biggest per centage of our taxes came from property taxes, and supplimented by our intangible tax. When I first took office, I asked the Village Clerk how much intangible taxes we were receiving and he told me about \$5,000. I felt the amount was incorrect and asked the Clerk to check on it. The next day our Clerk called and told me the auditor said that they would give us another \$8,000. I told the Clerk I wanted to know what we were entitled to receive. Well, the clerk called me back and said the County Auditor had raised the amount by another \$5,000. Again I told the Clerk that I wanted to know what we were entitled to get, not how much they would give us. He called me back again and said the County Auditor said they would give us \$25,000 and if I didn't like it, I could go to hell. I had our Clerk inform the auditor that our solicitor would be filing charges against the auditor's office the next day. A short time later the Clerk called again and said that we were entitled to \$80,000. When we later added the inheritance tax on top of the \$80,000, we had so much money, we didn't know how to spend it.

Q. Mayor Matthews, can you give us some idea where Glendale gets its operating revenue? OR Could you tell the viewers what an intangible tax is?

A. Mayor's response..

Q. Mr. Carruthers, with so many people out of work during the 30's, did Glendale have much of a crime problem?

A. Not really. Like I said, the community helped provide food, clothing, and shelter, as a result, we had little threat of theft or robberies. The community also provided a nurse who took care of the unemployed and the poor. She also made sure that various families were fed.

Q. Harry, you grew up in Glendale at the time Jim was Mayor. What do you remember about those early years when Jim was Mayor?

A. On Saturdays a bunch of us kids would go to the town hall to watch silent WWI movies. The town hall also provided us with pool tables and a gym. I believe there was also a men's singing club and a smoker once a year. On Decoration Day, there would be a field day with awards being given to the winners.

Jim mentioned about starting a garbage collection and it reminded me about what Glendale did prior to establishing a waste department. Before Jim became Mayor, there was one man who used a wagon and mule to collect the garbage. You could tell when he was coming by the sound of the flies.

Q. Mr. Carruthers, if you could sum up your 42 years as Mayor, what did you enjoy the most?

A. The thing I enjoyed the most was being a service to the community. I worked with a fine council and I can say that the council sincerely cared about the community. Not once in 42 years did we have a divided vote on council.

A. Mayor Matthews Response--What Jim said about council is still true today. We are still one of the few communities where the public officials serve without pay. I feel like Jim in that I am happy being able to serve the community where I grew up.