

## Sharing Photos and Films Brings Back Memories

By Bill Poray, Perinton Town Historian

Our town has been the fortunate recipient of historic photographs donated by the family of David S. Lanni Sr., whose camera captured many memorable images of Fairport and Perinton beginning in the 1930s and through the following decades. Lanni, who went on to a career at Eastman Kodak Company, didn't just provide us with still shots. A black and white silent 16mm movie includes a portion of a high school football game played in Fairport in October of 1937, against the visiting Brighton Barons. Lanni was a Brighton High School student at the time, although he spent most of his adult life in Perinton, and was involved in many civic activities in this community.



*Fairport kicks an extra-point in the 1937 film by David S. Lanni Sr. The building in the background is the old West Church Street High School, razed in 1955 and eventually replaced by the school district's administrative building.*

The game was played on the field behind the high school on West Avenue. The same field was earlier used when it was associated with Fairport's first high school, at 38 West Church Street. The football film is less than two minutes in length, but reveals much about the teams, the field, and the surroundings area. Behind the east sideline are the back lots of Perrin Street, including the Fairport Public Library, under construction at the time the film was made. Football fans line the field, and can be seen standing on garage rooftops to view the game. Some fans were known to bring stepladders to the sidelines to afford a better view.

The Herald-Mail provided an extensive report on the game, including some colorful phrases. An example: “Our pensive, ponderous, pachyderms pounded their way to an impressive victory over the chain gang boys from the aristocratic suburb of Brighton.” The Brighton team uniforms included striped sleeves, which inspired the following passage: “When the Twelve Corners team appeared on the field in convict jerseys, a feminine spectator was heard to remark, “Fugitives from a chain gang!”



A. Stolt, E. Valentine, W. Wilson, W. Hart, G. Bluhm, R. Soles, J. Miller, D. Jordan, R. Bluhm,  
L. Masciangelo, D. Wilson.

*Football players, as pictured in the Fairport High School yearbook of 1938*

Fairport went on to win the game 33 to 0, in just the second year of the teaching and coaching career of Joe Cummings. The Fairport players included Tony Stolt, Edward Valentine, William Wilson, William Hart, Robert Soles, John Miller, David Jordan, Lou Masciangelo, George and Richard Bluhm. The photographer also captured images of two Fairport cheerleaders, Betty Dinsmore and Marjorie Holley.

Our goal is to provide opportunities for the public to see Perinton’s collection of historic images. Several thousand people have had the opportunity to view the 1937 Fairport football film in recent weeks.

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