

Youths Smash Greyhound Buses in Fairport

There are stories to be told of Perinton and Fairport's streets, and the houses, buildings, and people who lived, worked and played there in years gone by. Some of these stories are of great importance to the history of our community. Others are not – but they are still a good story. This one falls into the second category.



Greyhound garage on East Avenue in Fairport, as seen in about 1960.

A large concrete block building stands at number seven East Avenue on Fairport's north side. Three store fronts occupy the address; The Pizza Chef, Lilliput Dollhouse and Miniatures, and The Fairport Barber. The concrete block construction is a clue that the structure was not originally built for retail commerce. In fact, the new 4,300 square foot building opened in 1947 to provide for the light maintenance and overnight storage of Greyhound buses servicing the community. With a dirt floor, no heating or plumbing, and unfinished interior walls of concrete block, this was a bare bones building. Despite the modest surroundings, the Greyhound garage was a place worthy of exploration, for at least two young Fairport residents.

It was high noon on a Sunday, July 10th of 1949, when the two young explorers made their way into the dark forbidding garage. As the Greyhounds rested from a busy week of travel, the two trespassers each climbed aboard their own bus, and made their way to the driver's seat. Apparently it was standard operating procedure to leave the keys in the ignition, allowing the rookie drivers to start their engines, and propel the two behemoths into the block walls of the building. While no injuries were reported, the Greyhounds didn't fare nearly as well. The windshields of both buses were broken and smashed fenders were plentiful. The building's cement block wall, only two years old, would require some attention as well.

All in all, you might find this to be a fairly unremarkable story. That is, until you learn that the mischievous vandals who perpetrated this crime were fairly young; in fact, neither had a driver's license. Reports of the incident listed their ages as three and five years old.

Written by Bill Poray, Perinton Town Historian

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