

The Westfield Republican

Number 8

THURSDAY, August 20, 2026

Westfield, New York

Ceremony Marks Cherry-Picking Past

By DAVID PRENATT
editorial@westfieldrepublican.com

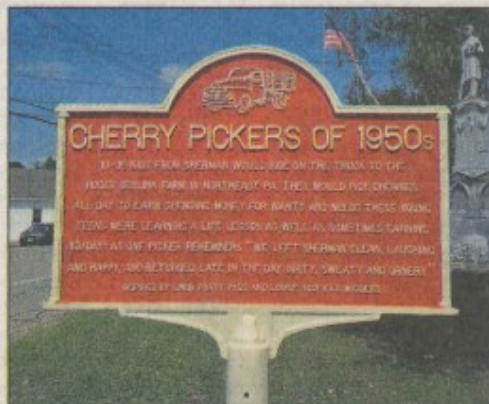
SHERMAN — Teen life in the 1950s wasn't just juke boxes, drive-ins, rock 'n' roll music and poodle skirts. For youth in the area, it was earning about \$3 a day picking cherries in North East, and being able to buy a lot with that \$3!

To commemorate those teenage cherry pickers of the 1950s, an historical marker was dedicated and unveiled at the Sherman Village Commons on Saturday, July 25.

The marker, which was donated by Sherman resident Ronald Moore, includes a cast image of a truck, symbolizing the truck in which the youth were transported. This historical marker specifically honors the youth from Sherman who would ride to the Roy Seblink Farm in North East to pick cherries.

The marker relates: These young teens were learning a life lesson, as well as sometimes earning \$3 a day! As one picker remembers, "We left Sherman clean, laughing and happy and returned late in the day dirty, sweaty and ornery."

Sherman Mayor Colleen Meeder kicked off the ceremony, noting how many people have come forward with cherry picker stories since the project began. She



A historic marker commemorating the young Cherry pickers of the 1950s, was dedicated in Sherman.

mentioned that Ron came to her with a dilemma about where the marker should be located. "We believe we have found the perfect location for the cherry picker marker," she said.

In addition to the marker, a cherry tree will be planted. However, Meeder said, the winters are too harsh in Sherman, so they have to find another location for it.

Moore, who spearheaded the effort to get a marker and solicited donations to purchase it, said that he was not able to be a cherry picker himself. "I was jealous," he said. "I could not go into the trees because I was a slave to a dairy farm. I only earned a dollar a day, and they would come home with three dollars."

Moore said the idea for the marker happened more than a year ago when he and Linda Pratt Page, who was a cherry picker, went out to dinner with a group. "Someone mentioned cherry pickers and it went from there," he said. "Every time I talked about the cherry pickers, someone had a new story to share."

During the dedication, Moore invited Page to speak about her experiences. "My friend Louise (Scofield Wiggers) and I were 12 years old. We went down to the drug store to ask if we could be pickers," she said.

Page said they earned according to how much they picked over a three-week period. "I earned \$25. Louise, who was an excellent worker, made twice that," she said. "I was at a disadvantage. I could only use one hand to pick cherries because I had a death grip on the ladder with the other."

Wiggers, who was also present at the dedication, said that the experience taught them appreciation and a good work ethic. "I earned \$45 and I can remember to this day



From left are 1950 cherry pickers Louise Scofield Wiggers, Donna Higgenbotham and Linga Pratt Page were present for the dedication of a marker commemorating that time. To the right is Ron Moore, who organized efforts to obtain the marker and a ladder used in picking cherries at that time

what I bought," she said. "I bought a white blouse with my initials on it and a reversible wool skirt."

Wiggers said that those three weeks helped form who she is now. "I think that now, as an adult, I look at it as more than just picking cherries. It was an experience," she said.

Moore, who has been instrumental in commissioning three historical markers, thanked everyone who assisted him or who offered financial support, especially the Village employees and Pam Brown, who has worked with him on all three markers.

The other markers that Moore has been instrumental in obtaining include one about "Little America," which is just east of Sherman and one on Eiden Road in Stedman which commemorates a man known as "The Jelly Man."

Brown, who also spoke at the dedication, emphasized the importance of the marker. "When Ron said he needed a marker, he said 'This is history,' and it is. It marks a bygone era," she said. "People really appreciate these bits of history."

Do You Have News To Share?

BUSINESS • COMMUNITY • DINING • EDUCATION • ENTERTAINMENT • FAMILY • RELIGION • HEALTH • SPORTS • PHOTOS • and much more!

We want YOUR news! Help us make our newspaper YOUR newspaper!



Email us at: editorial@westfieldrepublican.com