

Emily Rinaman:

Part of the reason I love working in a library is because I get to hide back in the technical services room where I digitize historical items and catalog the new books coming in. Unlike writing, speaking in front of a crowd, like this small one today, it might be small, but it's still big enough for me, it's not one of my fortes. So I confess that I will be reading today's presentation from my written transcript so I don't stumble over my words. I hope you all enjoy all the cool photos I have on my PowerPoint presentation, because they will be much more interesting to look at rather than staring at me for the next 45 minutes.

Emily Rinaman:

I believe in serendipity. I believe in signs. I believe we all have a purpose, and you know you're making the right decision when you feel it in your heart. One afternoon this past spring, I was sitting at my computer at work researching for one of the Seneca Strolls blog articles. I hadn't devoted any attention to this blog in a while, and I knew I needed to stop pushing it aside and work on it. We all know how that feels, right? Sometimes I get in my own head, and on this particular day, I was second-guessing myself, "Does anyone read these blogs? Am I doing this research for nothing? Is it taking up too much of my time? Should I just abandon the whole project?"

Emily Rinaman:

So I decided to take a break from my research and check my email, and that was when I had received the email from the BGSU Center for Archival Collections that I had won this award. The timing of this announcement could not have been any more prophetic. It was a confirmation that my doubts were all for nothing.

Emily Rinaman:

Okay. Well, I want to make it clear that I feel very blessed to be in a society, a career field and a position in my field where we are all actively making reparations towards the injustices that certain cultures and groups of individuals have experienced in our nation's history. It doesn't mean I always condone what's happened in the past and how these people have been treated. On the flip side, I believe addressing all of history can remind us how far we've come and motivate us to keep moving in the right direction.

Emily Rinaman:

For generations back to 1833, my paternal family has kept deep roots in Seneca County, Ohio, and I, therefore, have always felt compelled to find a way to keep Seneca County's history alive in their honor. This stained-glass window is from that church that myself, my father, who's here today, my paternal grandfather and many of his family members grew up in, the parish that our original ancestors from Bavaria Germany founded just a few years after immigrating. The window graces visitors to my home when they walk through our front door. My husband and I recently built this house just a few rule blocks over from where the church once stood for over 100 years before being demolished just within the last five to 10 years.

Emily Rinaman:

I have always loved books, and as a little girl, often imagined myself becoming a school librarian, in between my dreams of being a figure skater, as I watched Scott Hamilton and others skate on TV. Figure skaters like Tara Lipinski, Kristi Yamaguchi, Nancy Kerrigan and Surya Bonaly were my celebrity idols growing up. My parents always supported my dreams and I owe a large part of the reason I'm standing here today because of them. They've always known how determined I am, and my dad, a 1976 BGSU graduate, even signed me up for figure skating lessons here at BGSU back in the '90s when I was around 11 or 12 years old.

Emily Rinaman:

I was surrounded by girls half my age who were probably a little more serious about competitive figure skating than I was. I am pretty sure my baby photo album is still packed up somewhere after our move last year, so here is a collage of each of my three children's first time ice skating. Each of them were around four to five years old when they skated for the first time. They all look like me too, so just imagine that same face, but with 1990s attire, and you'll get the picture of myself in the Slater Family Ice Arena.

Emily Rinaman:

Luckily, it was around this time I had figured out what I truly wanted to be, a writer. Around the same time, at Christmas, my paternal aunt and uncle presented me, my brother and each of my cousins with a three-ring binder full of information about my ancestors and an extensive family tree. This was back in the early days of the internet, therefore, they had to make in-person visits, write letters, make phone calls, et cetera, to gain all this information from various libraries. They put a lot of time and effort into this project, and I realized how much love was contained in that binder.

Emily Rinaman:

I learned that I have branches in my family tree on both my paternal and maternal sides that have roots in Seneca County for several generations. It was in that moment my passion for learning about the past bloomed. I'll always be grateful that I was able to tell my aunt how much that gesture meant to me and how much it guided me on my life path before she passed away after a decade-plus long battle with metastatic breast cancer in May of 2022.

Emily Rinaman:

I graduated from Heidelberg University in 2006 with a major in English, emphasis in writing, and minors in Spanish and Latin American studies. My first job out of college was a reporter and photographer for the Focus in Fostoria. I didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I would, and I shifted to a part-time position as the serial supervisor at Beeghly Library at Heidelberg College for five years. It was there that I decided to pursue a career in the library field. When we went through a remodel, new carpet, and had to temporarily migrate to the building nextdoor over the summer, I was given the task of digitizing the old college catalogs. Being an alum myself, I found it fascinating to see how the university evolved over the years.

Emily Rinaman:

I then worked in various roles in both the advertising and editorial departments of the Advertiser-Tribune in Tiffin while working on my master's in library and information science degree, which I received online through the University of South Carolina in December of 2015. By that time, I had been volunteering at the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library since 2014, digitizing local history items for the former technical services manager, JoAnne Schiefer.

Emily Rinaman:

When the outreach department manager position at T-SPL became open and I was hired to take that role, I was able to continue to digitize once a week while serving in the outreach position. I took over as technical services librarian in June of 2018, and then eventually became the technical services manager in May of 2022 when JoAnne retired, and as you recall, that's the same month my aunt passed away.

Emily Rinaman:

Okay, so my idea for the Seneca Strolls blog was twofold. It was first and foremost an avenue to promote the Seneca County Digital Library, which I will refer to as the SCDL for the remainder of this presentation, and to get people to peruse the many items we've digitized. The SCDL started in the fall of 2009 through an LSTA grant with the help of NORWELD, which is the Northwest Ohio Regional Library District Consortium, and is located here in Bowling Green. The grant allowed 11 other libraries, in addition to T-SPL to digitize items. It covered the cost of a flatbed scanner and membership to the Ohio Historical Connection, which is required to be able to upload your digitized items to the Ohio Memory Project. The Ohio Memory Project is a piece of the Ohio Digital Network, which in turn, is part of the Digital Public Library of America.

Emily Rinaman:

One of the first collections digitized with the grant funds were the high school yearbooks. We now have over 3000 items digitized onto the SCDL, including court records, such as naturalization records, commissioners' journals from the 1800s, League of Women Voters meeting minutes, items loaned from Tiffin University, postcards, letters written to and from Louisa, suffragist Louisa K. Fast, club programs, various items pertaining to the Junior Home Orphanage, plus 100s of photographs and oral histories. Our most recent ongoing project after receiving the brand new scanner is digitizing the original birth and death records for the small villages and townships in Seneca County.

Emily Rinaman:

When I can't find appropriate photos for my blog articles, I use photos from the Ohio Memory Project from other institutions with permission. So this here is an example of that. This shows the interconnectedness of libraries, museums and other cultural heritage centers. For example, the technical services staff at T-SPL and library staff here at BGSU are part of two groups, the Northwest Ohio Cultural Heritage Group and the OhioDIG Group. Both are made up of different types of institutions that all have

active roles in preserving cultural heritage and the physical items that illustrate that heritage.

Emily Rinaman:

While these groups include public libraries and academic libraries, there are also members from museums, archives and special libraries within places like the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, for example. Through our collaborations, we share a multitude of ideas. So the next time you visit a museum, you know that training libraries probably had a hand in gathering the information for the displays, and likewise, when you visit a library, don't discount the idea that museum staff may have helped the librarians put up a historical display.

Emily Rinaman:

We, ourselves, partner with the Seneca County Museum for our display cases and did a joint military-themed display over the summer. Part of that display was showcasing Ohio's Underground Railroad trails, and we highlighted the ones that went through Seneca County. Therefore, I have to give partial credit to the Sandusky Public Library and the Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont because my idea for the Seneca Strolls blog was born from a meeting of the Northwest Ohio Cultural Heritage Group held in the summer of 2009 when both of these institutions shared they had active blogs to bring awareness to their histories and collections. That's a closeup of the Underground Railroad trails through Seneca County up to Sandusky that we had in the display case.

Emily Rinaman:

My second reason for taking on a blog project was because I become passionate to get people as excited about history as I am, especially local history. We are currently in an era where people are energized to revitalize downtowns, making them modern, while simultaneously maintaining some aspects of the historical foundations of the buildings and their pasts, including Tiffin, and Bowling Green has a nice downtown as well.

Emily Rinaman:

So the main intention of the blog is to show how the residents and culture of Tiffin and Seneca County fit into a wider hole. It shows how Tiffin and Seneca County fit into bigger trends. Because Tiffin is a small city and Seneca County is a very rural area, its residents can sometimes feel behind the times. My blog articles try to dispel that myth and try to express that we actively create our own histories.

Emily Rinaman:

So once I came back to T-SPL and presented my idea for a blog to JoAnne and our director, Matt Ross, and they gave me the go ahead to start creating it, we needed to come up with a name. We put out a stat poll with a few ideas that JoAnne and I came up with together, and our staff voted for Seneca Strolls. JoAnne selected the blog's signature photograph you see here from the SCDL. It's a photograph of a group of teenage girls taking a walk on the Junior Home Orphanage's grounds in the 1940s shortly before it closed.

Emily Rinaman:

Matt had suggested that I have a bunch of articles written in advance, since our marketing and communications manager can schedule them. I quickly set to work researching ideas on a multitude of topics. On a side note, this proved to be good hindsight because the pandemic hit right when we were debuting the blog. Our staff then shifted to a temporary hiatus followed by a modified work-from-home situation before returning in varying staggered capacities in the building. The blog was something I was able to work on from home.

Emily Rinaman:

I used the Chase calendar of events to come up with a lot of ideas, but I also included historical topics of wide interest that I thought could be researched well or that I knew we had plenty of information about on the SCDL. Some of these topics include the evolution of theater, pharmacies, handwriting, timekeeping, morning practices, meals, exercise and sports, and much more. While my focus tends to be a 100-year time span, give or take between the 1850s through the 1960s or '70s, sorry, Dad, but that's considered history to me at this point, I sometimes try to be cognizant of the distant past. We, unfortunately, only have a small collection of documents on underrepresented groups at the moment, and at some point I'd like to do a diversity audit on the SCDL to try to improve this disparity.

Emily Rinaman:

For my inaugural article in January of 2020, I wanted to do something that would entice a lot of people, since anyone with marketing experience knows it takes several attempts to get people to catch on to a new idea. So with the Super Bowl approaching, I wanted to do an article on pizza, which actually has a very interesting recent history in the U.S. directly tied to World War II. I was successful in setting up an in-person interview with John Reino, the current owner of a multi-generation, family-owned and authentic Italian pizza restaurant in Tiffin, Reino's.

Emily Rinaman:

I ended up finding his grandfather's naturalization record on the SCDL. This gives me goosebumps even today, right now, and he was extremely humbled by the fact that we had digitized it. This was one of the photos that I used in that particular blog article and is shown here. So Reino here is spelled R-E-N-O. So I pointed out at the top, Reino's today, they spell it R-E-I-N-O. So just an example of certain disparities when they came here and had a form filled out, but he signed it Giovanni Reino, which is really neat, but just John's reaction to seeing his grandpa's naturalization record, that's what really made it feel important for me to be doing this.

Emily Rinaman:

Other people I have interviewed in the community include a local certified auctioneer, a local ham radio expert and the current owner of Jolly's Restaurant, another longstanding Tiffin staple known for its homemade root beer, and there's some jugs that you used to be able to take to Jolly's and get them refilled, I guess. So I think that was before my

time, but I interviewed him on my article for home delivery trucks and how they've evolved into the current food truck craze.

Emily Rinaman:

Okay, shortly after the blog began, T-SPL's previous program manager came to me asking if I'd be willing to coincide my February 2021 blog article with an event the library was hosting called Things We Keep, since this topic, in and of itself, involves history. After perusing the SCDL to determine which angle I felt I could present well, I decided to focus on cornerstones, which is the idea of a community or organization keeping a select array of items within a newly erected buildings foundation. After this collaboration proved fruitful, our marketing and communications manager and I tried to coordinate the library's biannual community read themes with that month's blog article.

Emily Rinaman:

In April 2022, I did an article about apples to pair with the book, *At the Edge of the Orchard*, by Tracy Chevalier, or maybe ... I'm not good at French. Spanish in my language, not French. Last October, I wrote about the evolution of the pharmaceutical industry to match the book, *Ghosts of Eden Park*, by Abbott Kahler. This past April I focused on maps, which was a key component in the novel, *The Apothecary*, by Sarah Penner, and for this month's blog, I've done a piece on poems to go with Maggie Smith who visited us just on October 10th for her book called *Goldenrod*, and another book, her memoir, *You Could Make This a Beautiful Place*.

Emily Rinaman:

Looking forward to next spring, we'll be reading *The Paris Daughter* by Kristen Harmel, and that has ... Art is a major component in the main character's life. Events will be in late April and early May, so I'll be writing a piece on comics and billboards for April, and garden decorations in May.

Emily Rinaman:

When I took over as manager of the Technical Services Department, I started having our Throwback Thursday posts on Facebook centered around each month's blog theme. Our Throwback Thursday posts are pretty popular, and so I saw this as a way to get the word out about the Seneca Strolls blog. The two staff members in my department and I have a rotating schedule for these posts. Because our collaboration on the former Junior Home in Tiffin is so massive, one devotes the first Thursday's post to grabbing tidbits from those items that relate to the blog article theme. The second Thursday is devoted to our school yearbooks and the fourth Thursday features T-SPL's history. The third Thursday's post is always a link to that month's blog article, which is released onto the Seneca Strolls blog page that day.

Emily Rinaman:

Our marketing and communications manager always takes a sentence or two from the articles as an attention grabber, and chooses one of the photos, as I normally include two to four photos per blog article. The Facebook post for the band's article, for which

I'm receiving this award, reads, like most communities, Tiffin has a fantastic musical history. The latest Seneca Strolls blog talks about the different kinds of bands that have called Tiffin home over the years, including Steine's Band pictured here. Now that's not ... That's the Junior Home Marching Band, which was another picture I had in the blog.

Emily Rinaman:

And then she quoted my blog article. 1000s of German immigrants called Tiffin home, and one of the traditions they brought with them to America was their love of music and a strong kinship of playing music together. The American groups served as bridges between old and new worlds preserving ethnic traditions while shaping the culture. Steine's Band was perhaps the last of its kind and performed well into the 1940s. It even had its own theme song, Roll Out the Barrel, a Czech polka composed in 1927.

Emily Rinaman:

In the next several slides, I'd like to share the impact that the Seneca Strolls blog has made using direct quotes from comments posted on the blog itself and on our Throwback Thursday posts on Facebook. Before I do that, I just want to pause, because, just recently, my husband, he works at a factory in Tiffin, and we went to a Mud Hens game for his work, and the granddaughter of Steine, who started Steine's Band was there because she works in the factory, and so my husband was alongside. He's like, "Oh, here, here's the granddaughter of the ... that article you wrote on the bands." Well, we got talking to her, and she said that she has some of those instruments in her garage or something. So that's just an example of a way that you connect with people through stuff like this, and it just made me laugh that my husband was all excited about, "Hey, I'm connecting you with her." So I'm like, "Hmm, oral history in my future?"

Emily Rinaman:

Okay, back on track. Preserving and sharing history is a way to connect to our ancestors. One of my favorite blog articles I've done so far is the one I did on card playing, where I used a photo of men in my paternal grandmother's hometown of New Riegel in the southwest corner of Seneca County playing the regional card game of Euchre, and I just want to know, by a show of hands, how many people know how to play Euchre? Okay, that's pretty good. Some people are like, "Euchre? What's Euchre?" I'm like, "Oh, my God."

Emily Rinaman:

Okay. Anyway, on a side note ... Oh, wait, and then I've talked about, if you've never heard of Euchre and don't know how to play, I highly encourage you to find someone who does and have them teach you. This card game continues to stay very well alive to this day, because it keeps getting passed down. In the Midwest, especially this area of Ohio, it's almost a rite of passage when you learn how to play.

Emily Rinaman:

All right, anyway, I'll start off the quotes section of my presentation with a response to the article on bands, for which I won this award. So that's at the top there. "As an old Akron High School band member, I really enjoyed this article. My Tiffin ancestors from Germany originally lived in Fremont. I would love to be able to find out if they had a band also." Then, the bottom one is just on my article of rationing, and earlier I pointed out that photo, the rationing card. "Thanks for putting the COVID shortages into a historical perspective, especially a local historical perspective. I remember my parents talking about World War II rationing, and I have some old coupon books in a cedar chest. My mother thought that history was worth preserving. Great overview of the groups and organizations who stepped up to help the needy." Bravo, Emily, is how she ended it, but I didn't [inaudible 00:22:09].

Emily Rinaman:

Okay. Preserving and sharing history is a way to connect to our own pasts and carry that onto the next generations. In response to my articles on parades in September 2021, quote, "Too bad the Heritage Festival was canceled this year. I fully enjoyed being in the parade and scrubbing on my washboard to marching music with Mary Lewis and companions." And then, article on timekeeping. "Crazy to be reading this today. My six and seven-year-old grandchildren and I were just talking about how we used to have to look up a book in the library, a.k.a. the card catalog. I loved doing it and things that are obsolete or almost obsolete, such as wall clocks, phone books and landlines. We had that conversation, actually, in a Tiffin library." So there's Steine's Band, what I was talking about earlier.

Emily Rinaman:

Okay, both of these quotes are in response to a Throwback Thursday post related to my article on basketball in December 2022. "Love this. That's my daughter, Angie, back in high school." So this was one of the yearbook posts. "That was a great season, great teammates and coaches. She now has a son, Logan, playing his senior year at Columbian High School. Things come full circle." And then another quote, "It was a weird type of basketball, though. The kind I played in high school was only half court and three dribbles was the limit, and six players. Girls couldn't be expected to play full court, might damage the childbearing equipment or something."

Emily Rinaman:

Okay, digitizing items on the SCDL helps us receive facts from residents in the area who know historical facts about Tiffin and the surrounding area that we might not. The following is a response to my article on auctioning. "The linked article by Emily Rinaman mentions a second auction at the Daughters of the American Revolution home. Confusing the two organizations is a common mistake. The retirement home was actually for members of the Daughters of America, the auxiliary of the Jr. O.U.A.M.," which is referring to the Junior Home that I talked about earlier.

Emily Rinaman:



And then, this one here is one of our favorites. So this was an article I did on kindergarten, because kindergarten didn't always used to be required. "That photo is a picture of my mom. She passed away in September 2009. Seeing this photo is wonderful." So that picture garnered a lot of talk. She was a teacher, I guess, and some of her students remembered her, and so it was just a way to remember her, and then we got her name. So now we can put her name on her picture on the SCDL.

Emily Rinaman:

Okay, digitizing items on the SCDL allows others to share our history too. So, recently, so this picture doesn't actually go with the quote. I was just trying to put pictures for you to look at while I talk, but this here, the Tiffin-Seneca Heritage Festival Facebook page used our photos, and they credited us when they shared them, and they say, "Unbelievably, the Tiffin-Seneca Heritage Festival is just around the corner. Thanks to the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library's digital collection, we are going to share some of our favorite festival memories from years past, starting with 1979, the first year of the Heritage Festival, showing a huge crowd on the North Washington Street Bridge looking towards downtown Tiffin."

Emily Rinaman:

And then, I have another direct link to a specific item on the SCDL, has been placed on frostvillageinn.com in its neighborhood history section. Frost Village is a section of Tiffin by the Sandusky River with several stately old homes and a business that has taken over the building once owned by the Tiffin Women's Club. A link to our digitized version of the history of that particular building that we digitized is available on that website.

Emily Rinaman:

We have many other general referrals as well. The Tiffin Columbian Athletics page has us listed under their city archive section, so we get a handful of referrals from there each month. Tiffin University's Pfeiffer Library has a link to the SCDL in their research databases section. A website dedicated to the Lucas family tree of Northwest, Ohio, credits the SCDL, as well as the Seneca County Genealogical Society and the Fostoria Lineage Research Society, and according to our Google Analytics stats, because of our presence on the Ohio Memory Project, patrons at many other libraries in Ohio have found their way to our digitized items through their home library websites.

Emily Rinaman:

Here are some stats that I've collected on what SCDL items I've used for my blog articles from 2020 to 2023, so the entire time I've been doing the blog. I've used 210 items from the SCDL a total of 375 times as resources for my blog articles. The top five SCDL resources I've used over and over are Seneca County, Ohio History and Families. And that is not ... Oh, that's the photograph. So here we are over here. I should use my [inaudible 00:27:33]. Okay, so Seneca County, Ohio History and Families between the '80s, The What, How and Who of It, An Ohio Community in 1856 to 1880. History of Seneca County from the Close of the Revolutionary War to 1880, and Seneca County History Volume One.

Emily Rinaman:

And then, for I view Seneca ... Seneca, 79 photographs, and the top five, so I've used multiple photographs from these five sources. Bicentennial Parade Photograph Album, Tiffin, Ohio, A Good Place to Teach, A Good Place to Live. Seneca County History Combination Atlas Map, Tiffin's 75th Anniversary Souvenir, and we actually have a copy of that in our display cases right now. So if anybody's in the Tiffin area and wants to stop by and look at that in the display case. And then, Tiffin Seneca Sesqui-Centennial 1817 to 1967. Two of my three photos for the band's article came out of that.

Emily Rinaman:

There are many other local history sources I've used multiple times for both info and photos, including Building of the Week. Yeah, we're going down this list now. Jr. O.U.A.M. National Home Report, Junior Home, Our National Home, Original Land Entries of Seneca County, Tiffin Area, Ohio, Tiffin Streetcars and Public Utilities. I don't have this in the same order, so I'm just going to stop reading it. You can see them. There's another one of the pictures I used with permission from the Ohio Historical Society, but I just wanted to give an idea of all the different kinds of things that we have on the SCDL.

Emily Rinaman:

Sometimes I use sidebars to quickly convey a large array of information in one glance, like this sidebar here, showing tornadoes tracked in Seneca County. Other sidebars I created have shown a summary of the different kinds of arrowhead points found in Ohio, candy shops in Seneca County, Ohio, with their original addresses, and an overlapping timeline of events relating to the discovery of electricity. Events at both the non-local and local levels to show that overlap. I like timelines like that.

Emily Rinaman:

And then, recently, the blog got a positive endorsement on our Facebook page when the July 2023 blog article was shared. It reads, "I just clicked on the link to read this fascinating traveling circus article. Then I discovered the Seneca Strolls post. Wow, these historical articles are so interesting. If you are enticed to check out this article on Tiffin area history and want to learn more about topics related to Seneca County, be sure to check out this digital goldmine. Shout out to Emily Rinaman, technical services manager at the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library who delves into lots of research to write these fascinating pieces."

Emily Rinaman:

Some general comments that local residents have made about the blog articles in Throwback Thursday posts include the following, "This all brings back so many memories as I grew up in Tiffin in the 1960s and 1970s. Very nice summary of the census and how it reflected the growth of the city and county. It took some time to delve into those local histories. Good job." This quote is in response to my March 2023 article on wagons. So that photo went with that article. She makes a reference to a source she felt speaks to the same theme as the angle I took from my article. So I haven't looked

up what she's referring to, but she says, "Great sequel to McCullough's *The Pioneers*, which was about the very first pioneers to land in the Marietta Ohio region. This blog post spotlights what was happening in the Tiffin area only 50 to 80 years later. Thank you for sharing your research. It is a good lesson in how much our ancestors accomplished in so little time with so little resources compared to what's available today."

Emily Rinaman:

Okay, so how does this translate into usage stats? I've got numbers. I don't really want to read all of them. I don't want to bore you, but if you just want to ... I'll let you look at those for a few minutes. This is ... I go above and beyond. I'm not required to gather stats on my blogs, but I just like to keep track. While you're reading that, quite consistently, we see spikes in daily usage numbers on Thursdays when the Throwback Thursday posts go up on our social media accounts. In January, two different Thursdays, they literally doubled from 100 sessions a day to 200 sessions a day.

Emily Rinaman:

So for the remainder of this presentation, I would like to share one particular post that received a lot of interaction, and I actually mentioned it earlier. It's the one on basketball. Okay, so the blog and accompanying Facebook posts facilitate communication among community members. Today's Throwback ... So here's what the post read. "Today's Throwback Thursday shows Tiffin's original YMCA building." This was posted to the T-SPL's Facebook post on December 22nd, 2022, and it ended up receiving 163 comments, 26 shares and almost 270 likes over the course of just a few days. Ironically, the blog theme was basketball, but most of the comments were people reminiscing taking swimming lessons there. I will share many of these in the next couple of slides.

Emily Rinaman:

So here are just some of the many comments from that post talking about everything except basketball. So I'm going to read them. First one, "I was the bumper pool champion there for many years. I always thought the way to the pool was rather weird and spooky. It was perfect for Halloween, right? I practically lived there through junior high. Took swimming lessons there, played bumper billiards waiting to go to the pool. Tony Simpson and I used to weight train there and then go to Paul's Cafe for nickel drafts. My sister and I were there when we were not at the skating rink. Loved the Y-dances as well. It's where my brothers and I learned to swim, and I took dance lessons there, and also yoga. They had Friday night family nights also."

Emily Rinaman:

So there's four different things in that one comment besides basketball. "Swimming lessons, tadpole to lifeguard certifications, Girl Scout sleepovers and gymnastics. A lot of hours clocked on that building. Spent hours there on Saturdays. Hoops." Okay, so here, now we're finally getting basketball. "Hoops, then swimming downstairs. Good times. Legendary Heidelberg running back, Bob Hunt, worked there. He was always

very kind to us. Many of us learned to swim there. Fun times with family night on Friday evenings, and I remember jumping on the trampoline in that gymnasium," and that's not the same trampoline, that's from a different blog post, but I thought it fitting to put there.

Emily Rinaman:

Here's even more comments about the same post, and, eventually, we do get to basketball. "I stayed at the Y for a couple of weeks in 1960 when I worked at National as an intern during the summer. Our dad and other Junior Home kids returned to Tiffin after World War II and lived at the Y while they attended Heidelberg." Here's one that really stuck out to me, "I watched the demolition as a child." And then the last one, "Played in the Y Ball League on a team of guys like me that were cut from the varsity basketball team my junior year. We were pretty good. Games were the highlight of my week. Home core advantage was learning to fast break with a brick wall about three feet past the end line on one end and an exit door out to the parking lot on the other end."

Emily Rinaman:

Okay, so here we've finally reached the end. I want to, first and foremost, thank Julie Mayo from the Hayes Presidential Center and Ron Davidson from the Sandusky Library for being the individuals who, through our collaborations in the Northwest Ohio Cultural Heritage Group, gave me the idea to start a blog at T-SPL. I also want to thank my former supervisor, JoAnne Schiefer and T-SPL's director, Matt Ross, for giving the green light to start the blog. I want to thank my parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and my husband for always encouraging me and believing in me, and last but not least, I'd like to thank all of you for taking your time out of your day to hear my presentation. Thank you.