

# Yesterday's Yellow Springs: *A Mid-Twentieth Century Image Archive*



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Oberlin College Winter Term 2026 Project: Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce Internship

## Project Background

This project began by accident. Through reviewing materials at the Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce office as part of my Oberlin College winter term internship, I discovered over fifty historic photos of the downtown area. From uncovering them to scanning them, I realized they needed to be researched further, and so the real project began. The goal was to provide a catalogue of photos for villagers to look through that was organized, clear, and informative.

Learning about town in the 50s and 60s meant realizing how different Yellow Springs was at this time. When these photos were taken, the hardware store was still a hardware store, Antioch was flourishing, and the railroad hadn't yet been converted to a bike path. Also during this time, the Gaunt Park pool was completed, WYSO had its start, the Glen Helen Association was founded, and the Riding Centre was established. It was an important few years for this town, and these photos can remind those who take the time to consider them of how much Yellow Springs has grown and has the capacity to grow. This immersion into the past may also compel you to research other events and places in Yellow Springs history. A few I found interesting were the history of Glen Helen, the DeNormandie building, Mary Gove Nichols, and Bryan High School.

The Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce has put a great deal of work into finding the correct information regarding years and locations of the photos and I sincerely hope that you enjoy looking through them to get a sense of what downtown Yellow Springs was like in the 1950s and 60s. Thank you to Scott Sanders at Antiochiana and the Yellow Springs News team for their help with this project.

## How to Use this Archive

The following document is intended to be used with [this](#) Google Drive folder of images, which are scans of photos and slides that were recently uncovered at the Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce office. Most images are believed to have been taken in March 1955 or August 1960. Images with dates on the bottom border are from August 1960, and images with dates on the left side border are from March 1955 (most photos list August 1960 on one of the borders, but this is not always accurate). You will notice the biggest difference between these photos is that most of the 1955 photos have incandescent light poles visible in them, while the 1960 photos have updated mercury vapor light poles in them.

The photos are ordered from north to south for the east side of Xenia Ave., followed by the west side of the street, ordered south to north, followed by the north side of Dayton St. ordered west to east. This order is to give the effect of viewing the buildings as if you were walking down the street. Additionally, six Kodachrome color transparency slides from Xenia Ave. ordered north to south, are included. In the Google Drive folder, the slides can be viewed in the state they were found, which is red due to age, and as the color-corrected (CC) version. Please also take a moment to view the current day (CD) photos that were photographed on January 21, 2026, to be compared to the historical photos.

Several photo descriptions in this document include addresses, which indicate where the photos would be located in the current day and may not match the actual addresses at the time they were taken. The table at the end of the document provides a visual of the order of buildings occupying Xenia Ave. and Dayton St. in the images and today to help give some context regarding their locations.

### East Side of Xenia Ave. Photos

1. [Corner of Corry and Xenia](#)
  - Address: 209 Xenia Ave.
  - This image depicts the structure that currently houses the Winds Wine Cellar. In this image, there is no signage indicating what was occupying the building when the photo was taken.
2. [Glen Cafe](#)
  - Address: 215 Xenia Ave.
  - This image focuses on the building that currently houses the Winds Cafe. The building from the last image is seen to the left of the Glen Cafe, though this time with a sign. If you look very closely at the sign, you can make out the words “Village Bakery” and “Donuts”. The building to the right of the Glen Cafe doesn’t seem to be occupied by anything and is the current-day location of Yellow Springs Credit Union (YSCU).
3. [H.H. Electric](#)
  - Address: 217 Xenia Ave.
  - H.H. Electric encompassed Zenith Radio & Television and Whirlpool Appliances. Today, this location is part of where the YSCU sits.
4. [Zenith and Carlisle](#)
  - This image depicts some similar businesses to Image 3, but with slightly different names or signage. This is the only image that shows Carlisle Market. Today, these two buildings would encompass the entirety of the YSCU and part of the building located at 221 Xenia Ave., which is owned by Iron Table Holdings LLC.
5. [Model Dry Cleaning & Laundry](#)
  - Address: between current day 217 and 221 Xenia Ave.
  - In this image, you’ll find another business that occupied the building between what is now 217 and 221 Xenia Ave. Model Dry Cleaning & Laundry opened in December of 1959 in what was Carlisle Market. Today, it’s roughly the location of a building recently built on the Iron Table Holdings LLC-owned lot.
6. [Multi-Business Building](#)
  - Address: 221 Xenia Ave.
  - In the image, this building housed three different businesses at once: a furniture store, Klip ‘N Kurl Beauty Shoppe, and F.E. Jones Ceramic Tile Contractor. Today, this space is occupied by the Iron Table Holdings LLC building.

7. [View of Xenia Ave.](#)
  - In a wide view of Xenia Ave., this photo shows Glen Cafe, Model Dry Cleaning & Laundry, the multi-business building, and McAllister Plumbing & Heating. Also pictured is a truck with the Carling name, most likely a Carling beer delivery truck.
8. [Sign-free Buildings](#)
  - Address: 225 Xenia Ave.
  - The prominent building in this photo is current day Dino's Cappuccinos. In this photo, there appears to be no businesses occupying 221 or 225 Xenia Ave., but in other images, 225 is the location of McAllister Plumbing & Heating.
9. [Real Estate Building](#)
  - Address: 227 Xenia Ave.
  - Above the entrance to this building, you can see a large clock. The sign appears to be for a real estate company, though the name of the company is unclear based on the signage. Today, this building houses the Yellow Springs Senior Center (YSSC), and an addition has been added to the front of the building since this photo was taken.
10. [Yellow Springs Variety Store](#)
  - Address: 233 Xenia Ave.
  - This photo shows the town's 5-10 variety store and is the current-day building housing Emporium Wines & Underdog Cafe. To the left of the building, now an outdoor seating area, there appears to be a driveway. To the right of the building, there is another driveway, which is the location of the building that currently houses Pangea. Parked out front of the building is a Studebaker Hawk car, and the photo was taken from the current-day Tom's Market parking lot.
11. [Miracle 5¢ to \\$1<sup>00</sup> Store](#)
  - Address: 233 Xenia Ave.
  - This photo is mostly the same as Image 10, but shows 233 from a different angle and with a different business name. Also, at this time the Yellow Springs News was operating out of the same building and their sign can be seen to the left of the awning.
12. [Furay Rexall Drugs Before & After](#)
  - Address: 239 Xenia Ave.
  - This file contains a before and an after image of Furay Rexall Drugs, possibly to document renovations made to the building. The writer of the words "before" and "after" on the photos themselves is unknown. The building in the "after" photo is the same as today and now houses Glen Garden Gifts.
13. [Furay Rexall Drugs \(Negative of Image 12\)](#)
14. [Furay's Gift Shop](#)
  - Address: 243 Xenia Ave.
  - Furay's Gift Shop opened after their drug store was sold in 1955. In this image, the store is having a sale. The building is the same as what sits there today and now holds Unfinished Creations. The triangle on the wall to the right of the door

is still there.

15. [View from Short Street](#)

- This photo depicts a clothing store called The Mart, now the building in which Ohio Silver Co. operates, and the Little Art Theatre. The Little Art Theatre's marquee design in this photo is similar to the recently renovated marquee. Based on an old calendar of movies being shown at the theater from August of 1960, the movie poster in this photo could be *The Savage Eye*.

16. [The Little Theatre](#)

- Address: 247 Xenia Ave.
- This image is similar to Image 15, but the front of The Mart and the Little Theatre is paneled in wood. This photo could have been taken before the theater was bought and renamed "The Little Art Theatre" in 1955. A poster for the 1954 documentary *The Vanishing Prairie* can be seen to the left of the doors of the theatre, which was showing at the theater on March 4-7, 1955.

17. [Yellow Springs Market](#)

- Address: 251 Xenia Ave.
- Bordered by Bales Chevrolet Co. and a store that appears to be called the Thrift "E" Market, the Yellow Springs Market is in the same building as today's Dunphy Real Estate Inc.

18. [Yellow Springs News](#)

- Address: 253 ½ Xenia Ave.
- This photo was taken after Image 17, and the Yellow Springs News is in its current location. The Yellow Springs Market appears to have been converted to an IGA in this picture. While the building to the right of the News looks to be without a business when this photo was taken, it is the current location of Art + Craft Salon.

19. [Gegner's Before & After](#)

- Address: 255 Xenia Ave.
- The location depicted in this before-and-after pair is where Tweedle D's sits today. Then, it housed Gegner Barbershop, the site of an important protest for the town when Lewis Gegner was the only business owner left who refused to serve the Black community. His shop closed down in 1964. Similar to (Furay Rexall Drugs Before & After), the writer of the words "before" and "after" are unknown. To the right of Gegner's is a dentist, and to the left is D&G Appliances.

20. [Gegner's \(Negative of Image 19\)](#)

21. [D&G Appliances](#)

- Address: 257 Xenia Ave.
- While the sign in this photo isn't very visible, D&G Appliances and Television operated out of the building pictured here. Today, this location, but not the same building, is home to 'Running Errands' Natural Nail Studio.

22. ["No Left Turn"](#)

- Address: 257 Xenia Ave.
- This photo is similar to Image 21, but taken from across the street from where the First Presbyterian Church and US Bank sit today. At the time of this photo, the US Bank was the Miami Deposit Bank.

23. [Dick & Tom's and Erbaugh & Johnson Drugs](#)

- When this photo was taken, these buildings housed Dick & Tom's restaurant and Erbaugh & Johnson Drugs. Today, in the same buildings, you can find Sunrise Cafe and Yellow Springs Pharmacy.
- 24. [Xenia Avenue Corner](#)
  - Visible signs in this photo taken of the corner of Xenia Ave. and Glen St. are for D&G Appliances, Dick & Tom's, the Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) Lodge #279, and Erbaugh & Johnson Drugs. The IOOF lodge is still in the same location today, above Yellow Springs Pharmacy.
- 25. [Old Marathon](#)
  - Address: 301 Xenia Ave.
  - Beal's Service Marathon sits where today's Speedway does. Visible in this photo are several ads and promotions in the window of the station.
- 26. [Continued Marathon](#)
  - This photo shows more of the station, and you can clearly see the garage attached to the station and a few men standing inside.

#### West Side of Xenia Ave. Photos

- 27. [Hardware Store](#)
  - Address: 254 Xenia Ave.
  - This photo was taken when the now vacant building on the corner of Xenia Ave. and Short St. was Deaton's Hardware, the first iteration of the hardware store in town. To the right of the building is where current day Yellow Springs Toy Company sits. At the time of this photo, it's hard to make out what the toy store housed, but it was most likely in transition from its role as a hotel.
- 28. [Deaton's Storefront](#)
  - Address: 254 Xenia Ave.
  - Another angle of town's beloved hardware store. In this photo, you can see the advertisements for tools, paints, sporting goods, appliances, toys, and gifts.
- 29. [One-way Driveway](#)
  - This photo depicts an empty space between the building the Yellow Springs Toy Company now operates out of and the Super "E" Market, now Tom's. Today, this space is blocked by a brick wall.
- 30. [Grinnell's](#)
  - Address: 242 Xenia Ave.
  - Grinnell's was an appliance store specializing in refrigerator sales. Specifically, Grinnell's sold brands like Hotpoint, Norge, and Westinghouse, as seen on their sign above the entrance to the store. Today, this building is occupied by Tom's Market and the Yellow Springs Masonic Temple.
- 31. [Eddie Luttrell's Super "E" Market](#)
  - Address: 242 Xenia Ave.
  - Operating out of the same building as Tom's Market, the Super "E" Market shared a space with Grinnell's.
- 32. [Super "E" Parked Cars](#)
  - Even back when this photo was taken, villagers took advantage of the parking spaces to the right of the grocery store.



33. [W.W. Squires Barbershop](#)
  - This photo depicts a barbershop in a building that does not exist anymore sitting in front of current day Asanda Imports.
34. [The King House](#)
  - Address: 232 Xenia Ave.
  - The King house is the same building that now houses apartments and Tesseract Books. At the time of this photo, it was most likely still a residential building.
35. [Ye Olde Trail Tavern](#)
  - Address: 228 Xenia Ave.
  - This photo depicts the tavern built by Elisha Mills that still operates today. At this time, you'll notice that there were no patios attached to the building.
36. [Tavern Front](#)
37. [Railway Express Agency](#)
  - This building is another one that does not exist anymore. It sat where today you can access King's Yard. At this time, it housed the Railway Express Agency and was attached to the Antioch Bookplate Company.
38. [Railway Express Agency and Antioch Bookplate Company](#)
39. [Antioch Bookplate Company](#)
  - Address: 220 Xenia Ave.
  - This image depicts the Antioch Bookplate Company, now the building that houses Jennifer's Touch, Toxic Beauty, and Bonadies Glasstudio.
40. [Car Passing Antioch Press](#)
  - Partially shown in this image is Antioch Press. The car in the foreground of this image is identified as a 1958 Ford Fairlane 500.
41. [Antioch Press](#)
  - This photo depicts the Antioch Press building which sits where today there is only the parking lot of Yellow Springs BP.
42. [The Standard Oil Company Station](#)
  - The Standard Oil Company (Ohio), known as Sohio and/or Boron, is seen in this photo. Later, BP would merge with Sohio, and this location would become the BP it is today. In the background, you can see the post office.

#### Dayton St. Photos

43. [Building with Telephone Booth](#)
  - Address: 142 Dayton St.
  - Likely the location of Rosie's Natural Foods today, it's difficult to assess what was inside this building when this photo was taken. To the left of the building is a telephone booth.
44. [Ford](#)
  - In this image and Image 45, Ford appears to encompass the buildings that now hold Garmint Boutique, Rose and Sal Vintage Shop, Tik's Thai Express LLC, and Super-Fly Comics & Games.
45. [Hugh's Ford Inc.](#)
46. [Dayton St. Alley](#)
  - This image shows the alley between today's Super-Fly and Gulch Saloon. Then, it was Ford and a cafe, respectively, though the name of the cafe is unknown based

on the sign in the photo. In the cafe window, a Carling beer sign can be seen, calling back to the Carling beer truck in Image 7.

47. [Empty Building](#)
  - Address: 126 Dayton St.
  - This image shows the building where current-day Lucky Dragon is housed. In the photo, it appears to be empty. To its right is Stag Cleaners.
48. [O'Sullivan's Shoe Service and Village Barber Shop](#)
  - These two businesses sit where The Joynt and In Salon sit today. Though the 120 Dayton St. building has not always been a hair salon/barber shop, it's interesting that similar businesses were in the building in this photo and today.
49. [Pittsburgh Paints](#)
  - Address: 118 Dayton St.
  - Pittsburgh Paints appears to have been managed by AC Service because of the AC Service signs in their windows. Today, this building is empty.
50. [AC Service](#)
  - Address: 116 Dayton St.
  - This photo depicts AC Service and the building that now holds Village Cyclery. AC Service still operates out of this building. This photo, like Image 7, depicts a Carling beer truck.
51. [Lowe Brothers Appliances](#)
  - 108 Dayton St.
  - Lowe Brothers Appliances was in the building space that holds the Yellow Springs Baking Company today. A sign in the window says "It's Spring - Time to Buy her a Dryer".
52. [Myzon Building](#)
  - Address: 100 Dayton St.
  - This image shows Myzon, an animal food supply store. Today, the Railroad Street Parking Lot is at this location.
53. [Front of Myzon and Purity Feeds](#)
  - Address: 100 Dayton St.
  - Another view of Myzon, this photo also shows the railroad tracks that are today's bike path. The Myzon sign says, "New Scientific Health Discovery" and "Hogs, Poultry, Cattle". It's unclear whether the Purity Feeds signs were representing another business or a brand sold at Myzon.

#### Kodachrome Color Transparency Slides

1. [View of the Credit Union](#)
  - Address: 217 Xenia Ave.
  - The building pictured in this image takes up part of the space currently occupied by the YSCU today. In the window of the building, a banner reading "Tuckabuckadayaway" can be seen, which most likely advertised for the Tuckabuckadayaway Toledo Home Federal Savings and Loan Association.
2. [View of the Credit Union](#)
3. [View of the Credit Union](#)
4. [Credit Union and Model](#)
  - Another view of the YSCU, but with Model Dry Cleaning & Laundry also visible.



5. [View of Storefronts](#)

- Pictured here are Glen Cafe, YSCU, Model Dry Cleaning & Laundry, the furniture store building, and McAllister Plumbing & Heating.

6. [Down the Sidewalk](#)

- A view of the same stores, but at an angle where you can see all the way to what appears to be the John Bryan Center, though at the time this photo was taken, it would have been Bryan High School.

The following chart provides a visual of the order of buildings occupying Xenia Ave. and Dayton St. in the images and today to help give some context regarding their locations.

Address	Current-day occupant	Building occupants in images			
East Side of Xenia Ave.					
209 Xenia Ave.	Winds Wine Cellar	<a href="#">Image 1: No signage</a>	<a href="#">Image 2: Village Bakery</a>		
215 Xenia Ave.	Winds Cafe	<a href="#">Glen Cafe</a>			
217 Xenia Ave.	Yellow Springs Credit Union (YSCU)	<a href="#">Image 3</a> : H.H. Electric - Zenith Radio & Television, Whirlpool Appliances	<a href="#">Image 4</a> : Zenith Radio & Television, Admiral TV Appliances, Harris & Harris	<a href="#">Image 2</a> , <a href="#">Image 5</a> , <a href="#">Image 7</a> : No signage	Kodachrome Slides <a href="#">1</a> , <a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">3</a> , <a href="#">4</a> : YSCU (old building)
		<a href="#">Image 3</a> , <a href="#">Image 5</a> , <a href="#">Image 7</a> : Model Dry Cleaning & Laundry	<a href="#">Image 4</a> : Carlisle Market		
221 Xenia Ave.	Iron Table Holdings LLC building	<a href="#">Image 5</a> , <a href="#">Image 6</a> , <a href="#">Image 7</a> : Furniture store	<a href="#">Image 5</a> , <a href="#">Image 6</a> , <a href="#">Image 7</a> : Klip ‘N Kurl Beauty Shoppe	<a href="#">Image 5</a> , <a href="#">Image 6</a> , <a href="#">Image 7</a> : F.E. Jones Ceramic Tile Contractor	<a href="#">Image 8</a> : No signage
		225 Xenia Ave.	Dino’s Cappuccinos	<a href="#">Image 7</a> , <a href="#">Image 9</a> : McAllister Plumbing & Heating, Coleman	<a href="#">Image 8</a> : No signage
227	Yellow	<a href="#">Real estate building</a>			

Xenia Ave.	Springs Senior Center (YSSC)		
233 Xenia Ave.	Emporium Wines & Underdog Cafe	<a href="#">Image 10</a> : Yellow Springs Variety Store	<a href="#">Image 11</a> , <a href="#">Image 12</a> : Miracle 5¢ to \$1 <sup>00</sup> Store
239 Xenia Ave.	Glen Garden Gifts	<a href="#">Furay Rexall Drugs</a>	
241 Xenia Ave.	Iron Table Holdings building	<a href="#">No signage</a>	
243 Xenia Ave.	Unfinished Creations	<a href="#">Furay's Gift Shop</a>	
245 Xenia Ave.	Ohio Silver Co.	<a href="#">Image 15</a> , <a href="#">Image 16</a> : The Mart	
247 Xenia Ave.	Little Art Theatre	<a href="#">Image 15</a> , <a href="#">Image 16</a> : Little Theatre	
249 Xenia Ave.	Kismet	<a href="#">Thrift "E" Market</a>	
251 Xenia Ave.	Dunphy Real Estate Inc.	<a href="#">Image 17</a> : Yellow Springs Market	<a href="#">Image 18</a> : IGA - Yellow Springs Market
253 ½ Xenia Ave.	Yellow Springs News	<a href="#">Image 17</a> : Bales Chevrolet Co.	<a href="#">Image 18</a> : Yellow Springs News
253 Xenia Ave.	Art + Craft Salon	<a href="#">Image 18</a> : No signage	<a href="#">Image 19</a> : Dentist
255 Xenia	Tweedle D's	<a href="#">Gegner Barbershop</a>	

Ave.		
257 Xenia Ave.	'Running Errands' Natural Nail Studio	<a href="#">Image 21</a> , <a href="#">Image 22</a> , <a href="#">Image 24</a> : D&G Appliances
259 Xenia Ave.	Sunrise Cafe	<a href="#">Image 22</a> , <a href="#">Image 23</a> , <a href="#">Image 24</a> : Dick & Tom's
261 Xenia Ave.	Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) Lodge #279	<a href="#">Image 24</a> : IOOF
263 Xenia Ave.	Yellow Springs Pharmacy	<a href="#">Image 23</a> , <a href="#">Image 24</a> : Erbaugh & Johnson Drugs
301 Xenia Ave.	Speedway	<a href="#">Image 25</a> , <a href="#">Image 26</a> : Beal's Service Marathon
West Side of Xenia Ave.		
254 Xenia Ave.	Robert F. Baldwin Jr. Trustee building	<a href="#">Image 27</a> , <a href="#">Image 28</a> : Deaton's Hardware
252 Xenia Ave.	Yellow Springs Toy Company	<a href="#">Image 27</a> , <a href="#">Image 28</a> , <a href="#">Image 29</a> : No signage
242 Xenia Ave.	Tom's Market	<a href="#">Grinnell's Appliances</a>
		<a href="#">Image 30</a> , <a href="#">Image 31</a> , <a href="#">Image 32</a> : Eddie Luttrell's Super "E" Market
No current address	No current building	<a href="#">Image 32</a> , <a href="#">Image 33</a> : W.W. Squires Barbershop
232 Xenia Ave.	Tesseract Books	<a href="#">Image 33</a> , <a href="#">Image 34</a> : The King house

228 Xenia Ave.	Ye Olde Trail Tavern	<a href="#">Image 35</a> , <a href="#">Image 36</a> : Ye Olde Trail Tavern
No address	Pathway to King's Yard	<a href="#">Image 37</a> , <a href="#">Image 38</a> : Railway Express Agency
220 Xenia Ave.	Jennifer's Touch, Toxic Beauty, Bonadies Glasstudio	<a href="#">Image 38</a> , <a href="#">Image 39</a> : Antioch Bookplate Company
No address	BP parking lot	<a href="#">Image 40</a> , <a href="#">Image 41</a> : Antioch Press
4 Xenia Ave.	Yellow Springs BP	<a href="#">The Standard Oil Company</a>
North Side of Dayton St.		
142 Dayton St.	Rosie's Natural Foods	<a href="#">No Signage</a>
138 Dayton St.	Garment Boutique	<a href="#">Image 43</a> , <a href="#">Image 44</a> , <a href="#">Image 45</a> , <a href="#">Image 46</a> : Hughes Ford Inc.
136 Dayton St.	Rose and Sal Vintage Shop	
134 Dayton St.	Tik's Thai Express LLC	
132 Dayton St.	Super-Fly Comics & Games	
128 Dayton St.	The Gulch Saloon	<a href="#">Cafe</a>
126 Dayton St.	Lucky Dragon	<a href="#">No signage</a>

124 Dayton St.	The Joynt	<a href="#">Stag Cleaners</a>
		<a href="#">O'Sullivan's Shoe Service</a>
120 Dayton St.	In Salon	<a href="#">Village Barber Shop</a>
118 Dayton St.	Don & Christine Beard Building	<a href="#">Pittsburgh Paints</a>
116 Dayton St.	AC Service Company	<a href="#">Image 49</a> , <a href="#">Image 50</a> : AC Service Company
110 Dayton St.	Village Cyclery	<a href="#">No signage</a>
108 Dayton St.	Yellow Springs Baking Company	<a href="#">Lowe Brothers Appliances</a>
100 Dayton St.	Railroad St. parking lot	<a href="#">Image 52</a> , <a href="#">Image 53</a> : Myzon



### Sources

1. “A historical walking tour of downtown Yellow Springs,” The Yellow Springs News, 2022.
2. “Downtown Yellow Springs’ most-cherished businesses,” Megan Bachman, The Yellow Springs News, 2022.
3. <https://auditor.greenecountyohio.gov>
4. *Two Hundred Years of Yellow Springs*, The Yellow Springs News, 2003.