

The Rumor Mill

The following article appeared on the front page of the May 26, 1939, Erie County Reporter. The editor poked fun of those who spread rumors in the village about industries coming to town. In the past none of the rumors panned out but had been dutifully reported in the paper. This time the editor had remained silent. Written in editorial style, it appeared on the front page mixed in with other news. The article is as it appeared in the paper.

Extra! Sandusky Papers Discover Huron To Get Super Colossal Industry

The secret (?) that Huron is to have a super-colossal industry, ranging in price from one million to five billion dollars, finally leaked out Tuesday and found its way into the Sandusky papers after more than half year of conversation around these parts.

Now that the cat is out of the bag we may as well review all the curbstome gossip concerning Huron's latest hope. It seems (sez one guy) that plans are already made, contracts let, steel prepared, cement brought, and this monstrous outfit will swoop down overnight and before we know it a tremendous structure will rear itself in the big field next to where the Kulas have been parking so long that it has become part of the landscape.

"Tain't so," sez another local sage, spitting tobacco accurately at a passing dog. "That there flour mill has went to Painesville. They couldn't get a clear title to the property, and anyway the land ain't solid. So they bought the big grain elevator down there." (At least we do know that the Staley Company did buy a big elevator there, so that much is true.)

"Why it is true. It's going to be a grain elevator and a cereal manufacturing plant and it will employ 500 people," declared Dirty Shirt Ike. "I heard about it from a railroad guy who's a big shot and he talked to somebody who knows the real estate big shot for some company.

And so it goes. It's General Mills (Wheaties, the breakfast of champions, folks,) or Quaker Oats (Puffed Wheat and Rice Shot from Cannons). or Cream of Wheat (Use in Town Honey) or Kellogg (None genuine without this signature), or General Foods (Post products that give you Vim, Vigor and Vitality). Well we don't know (honestly) and the people who do know aren't saying anything.

Reviewing the facts, as we know them, we find that the council about six months ago passed ordinances vacating certain streets that used to run

from the river to the east side. This property was supposed to be deeded to the Wheeling Railroad 20 years ago, but the village records, like those of most small towns, was lost in the shuffle. Adam Beckhoff was clerk at the time.

So the council cleared the title to the property. And then we come to the bridge, (which will be built soon, we hope) and find that it brings further complications. The county commissioners therefore took action Monday to clear the titles there, and that's how it happened that the Sandusky papers got such a big story. Some guy woke up and saw a story under his nose, and that's the size of it.

So when they break ground, you can believe it. Frankly we believe it's going to come and quite soon.

Research shows that Eastern States Farmers' Exchange was to begin the building of a grain elevator and a mill in 1941. However, WWII intervened and construction didn't begin until late 1945. Shortages of material and labor slowed the building down, and a conflict with Korean almost caused the mill project to be abandoned. After seven years, limited operation of the mill began by producing mixed feed in June 1952. The elevator completed in 1947 was already in operation. Today Peavey Grain runs the elevator, but the mill is in a state of flux.