RURAL NEIGHBORHOODS

Fishermen, Firemen, Flea Markets and Fairs

Judith Sheridan

The rural neighborhood still seems to catch the fancy of many Americans who hope that the air will be cleaner, life simpler and joy more complete in the country. Small Western Reserve towns still survive despite nearby giant malls and small farmers still hang onto their agricultural traditions even when drought prevails.

The struggle to balance modern life with the "good old days" in rural neighborhoods will continue as long as small towns and farms exist. Some of these special places will be examined to help us reevaluate their part in the past and their role in the future--Mesopotamia in Trumbull County with its Amish community, volunteer fire department and flea market, the community of workers who are Lake Erie fishermen and Wellington in Lorain County with its fairground, business district and Archibald Willard Museum.

People make communities happen. Discussing school boards, churches, workplaces, homes and farms will help us to understand Western Reserve neighborhoods in the waning 20th century.