

On this Day in History, January 23rd

January 23, 1849-The first female M.D., Elizabeth Blackwell, earns Medical Degree from Geneva College in New York.

January 23, 1957-The toy company, Wham-O, launches the aerodynamic plastic disc known as the Frisbee.

AND...

January 23, 1955-The Dedication of Lee Eaton Elementary School is Announced...

You may ask yourself, how did Lee Eaton Elementary School gain its name? Actually, it was named after the daughter (Lee) of a local Industrialist, Cyrus Eaton. His daughter was an invalid all her life, and died at the age of 41, never having had the opportunity to see the school completed. It was Eaton, committed to life-long learning, who donated 12 acres of land for the school, and according to Carl Coffeen, Superintendent of Summit County Schools (1955), "...this was the first time he had known of a citizen making such a donation". Thus, the school was named, Lee Eaton. In his dedication speech Mr. Eaton stated, "I hope the children of this school will make the most of their opportunity to know the best of both the country and the city".

So who was Cyrus S. Eaton? He was born December 27, 1883 in Nova Scotia, Canada and later moved to the United States, ultimately settling in what is currently known as Eaton Estates, once referred to as Acadia Farms. Mr. Eaton lived at Acadia Farms year round, and committed each day to farming activities despite the demands of his vast and varied industrial interests. In the business arena, Mr. Eaton is known for building several electric-power plants in western Canada; later expanding his market into other utilities, banking, and steel industries in the U.S. In 1930 Republic Steel was formed through a merger of several of his own enterprises. While most will remember Eaton for his successes in industry, the plain fact is that he was also internationally renowned for beef cattle breeding. Did you know: Acadia Farms was once ranked among Northern Ohio's largest farming operations?

The undertones of the Dedication of Lee Eaton expressed the following: [that] "children passing through Lee Eaton would become happy, healthy, active citizens of this great democracy...that the bravery of Lee Eaton be to all who pass through its doors the inspiration to overcome all of life's obstacles; that all it's pupils, through their attendance here, may learn to see with the eyes of tomorrow".

WELCOME TO LEE EATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!