

My “Little O.B.” by Vice President Cyndie Gerken

I attended first through third grades at the Olive Branch School building located at 9710 W. National Road, 10 miles west of Springfield in Clark County's Bethel Township. Also, ONRA President Denna Johnson spent grades 6-7 there. Because of its unusual design it was sometimes called the “round” building. But we always referred to it as “Little O.B.” since there was a large two-story Olive Branch Junior High building next door. Built in 1908, Little O.B. served as a rural high school until 1928 and continued in use as a school in one way or another into the early 1970's. It is used today as the Tecumseh Local School's warehouse and storage facility and remains as the lone surviving historic school building on the National Road campus. Recently a group of local community members (including yours truly)



formed the Olive Branch School Preservation Society (OBSPS), whose mission is “to promote and fund the preservation of Olive Branch

School and local history, and to further the legacy of cooperation between schools and community through public engagement.” The OBSPS recently received word from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office that the Olive Branch School building qualifies for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. A subcommittee has been formed to explore funding sources to renovate the old building, and will be pursuing opportunities for grants, donations and other fundraising options. For

more information or to become involved, visit the Preserve Olive Branch link on the district's website at www.tecumseh.k12.oh.us or call Assistant Superintendent Matt Curtis at 937-845-3576.