

A BIT OF THE PAST... IN LANCASTER, OHIO

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In years past barber shops were not only a place to get your hair cut but while getting your hair cut, the barber had a service (in the case I knew about, a grandson had this job) of providing a shoe shine service while you were in the barber chair.

Above is shown the portable shoe shine stand that was used by several brothers in the KERN family barber shops at one time or another. This picture was given me of the portable shoe shine stand by a former classmate of mine. Her grandfather made this shoe shine stand and her Dad had often been the “shoe shine boy”.

The platform for the customer's foot (one at a time of course) is at the uppermost area of the photo; an assortment of shoe polish is seen in one of the compartments in the top of the stand and additional storage space below for brushes and rags is seen at the front of this stand.

The lady who gave me this picture said more than one grandson used to be given this job – “They couldn't just hang around Grampa's or Dad's barber shop without doing something.”

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Have you ever seen anything like this before?

It appears to be a wooden paddle, but it would be entirely impractical as a paddle – it is too large and unwieldy to be something you would paddle an erring child with, or even a older child.

It is hinged on the end closer to the front of the picture and the bullet shaped hole makes you wonder its purpose.

When the paddle is held by the handle (in the forefront of the picture) you wonder why the hinged portion is made in such a way.

The legend, because its purpose wasn't really know by the person who showed me this, says this is a **DOG TRAINING DEVICE**. When the dog handler is training the dog to ignore blasts from a rifle or shotgun, the wrapping of the device in an extended form from the body, the loose or hinged section comes into contact with the plain surface and make a resounding CRACK, like a gun.

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