

International
Bird
Detectives
Issue No. 13

The Legend of



Chic-Chic

and the origin of Uncle Enoch

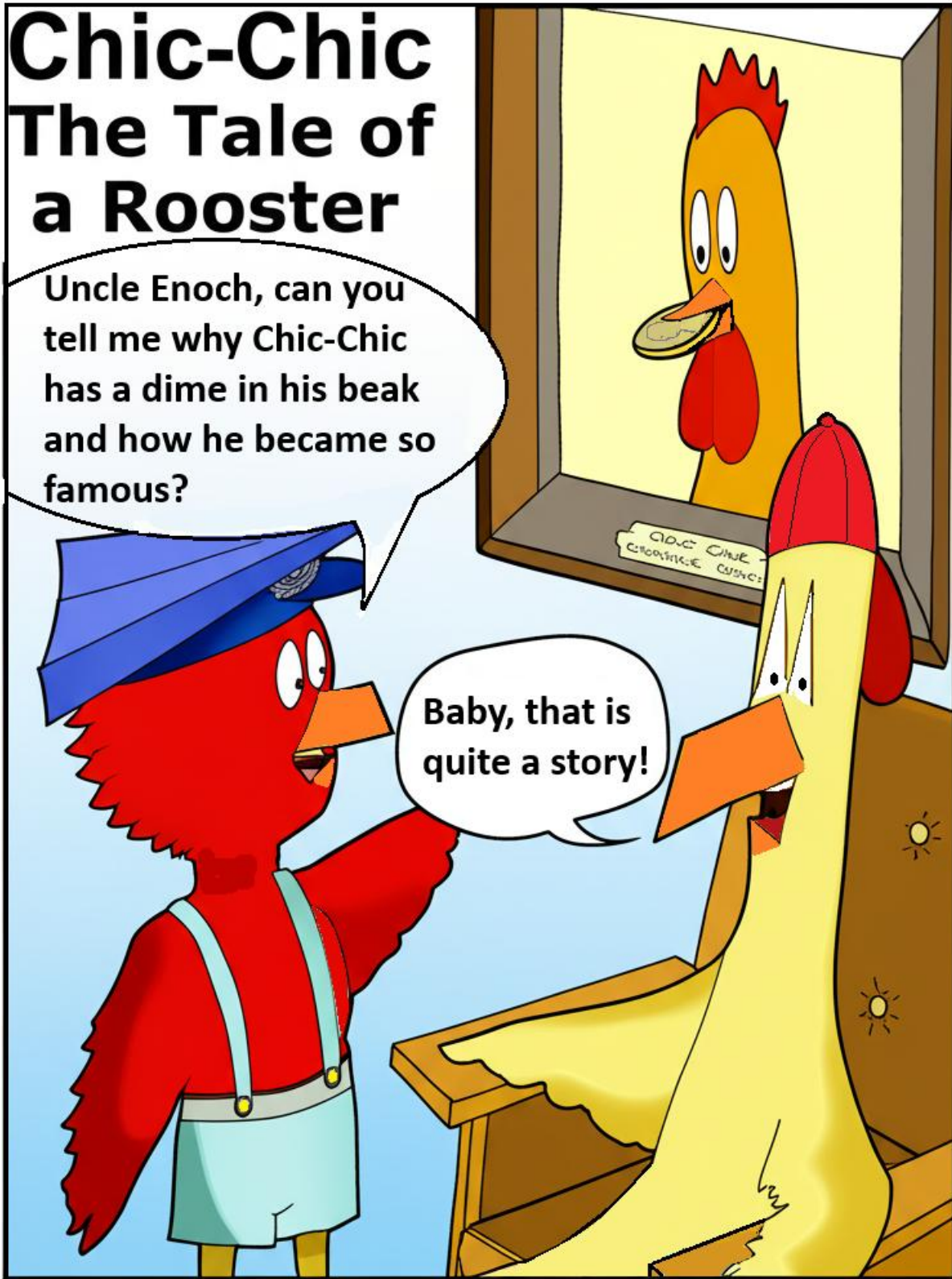
Grades 4, 5, and 6

By Bob Hines

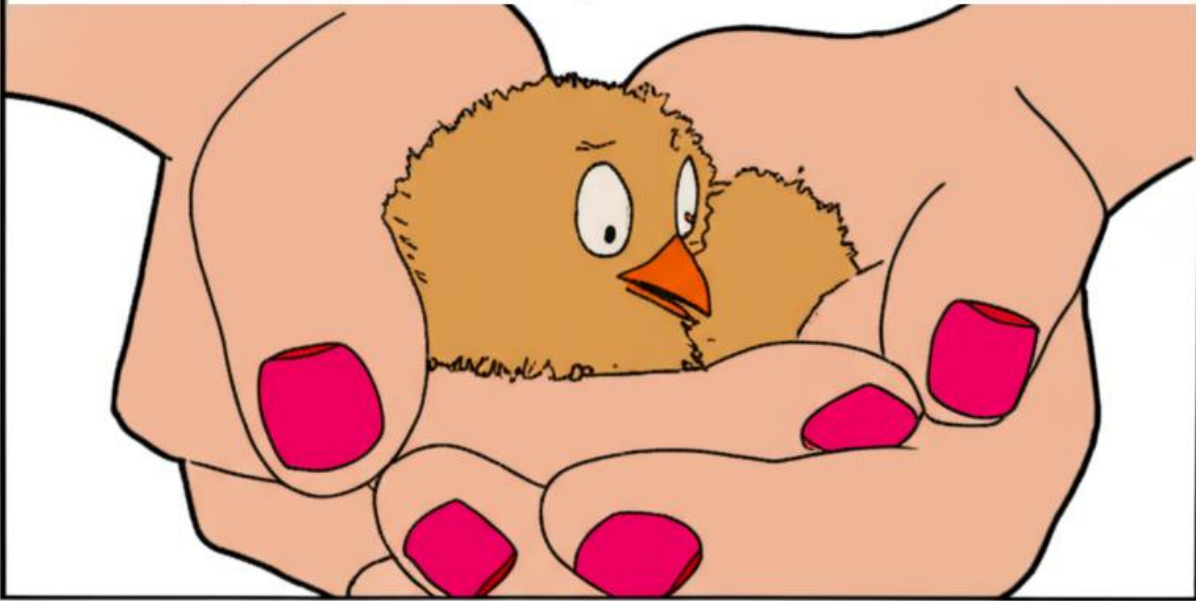
Chic-Chic The Tale of a Rooster

Uncle Enoch, can you
tell me why Chic-Chic
has a dime in his beak
and how he became so
famous?

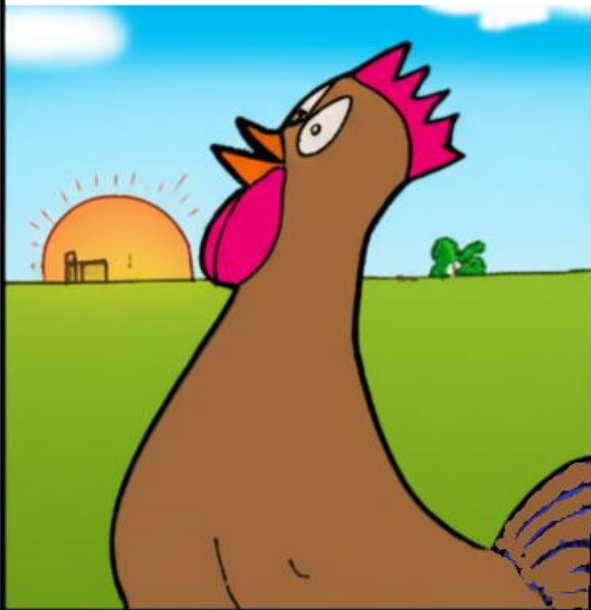
Baby, that is
quite a story!



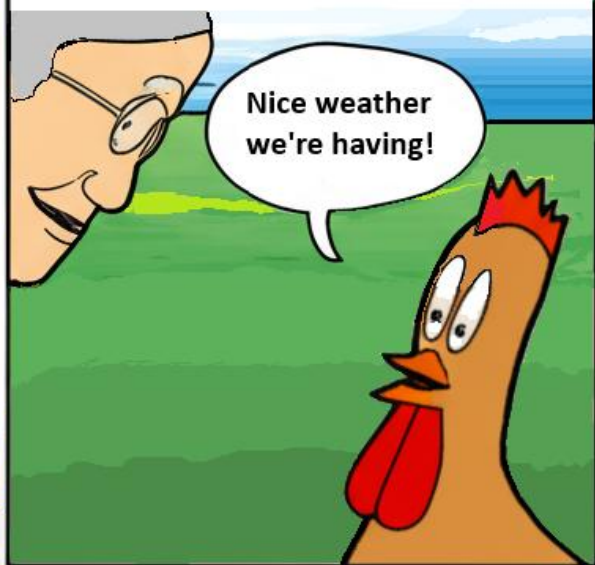
Chic-Chic's journey began like any other bird's --he hatched from an egg. He was born in 1954 on a farm near Pickerington, Ohio, just before Memorial Day. He was given to Mrs. Ada Cooper to raise. Little did she know that this little rooster would grow up to be known as "the smartest rooster in the world. His story would even inspire a book about his exploits.



By 1955, folks in Ohio were buzzing about this extraordinary rooster who did more than just crow at dawn.



Chic-Chic, as Mrs. Cooper named him, would greet bus riders, chat with local shopkeepers, and even carry a dime to a nearby diner to pay for his meals.



Dave Webb, a writer known for his folk tales under the pseudonyms Erasmus Foster Darby and Alonzo Finley Kercheval for the Ohio Valley Folklore Project caught wind of this remarkable rooster and had to see for himself what was so special about this bird.



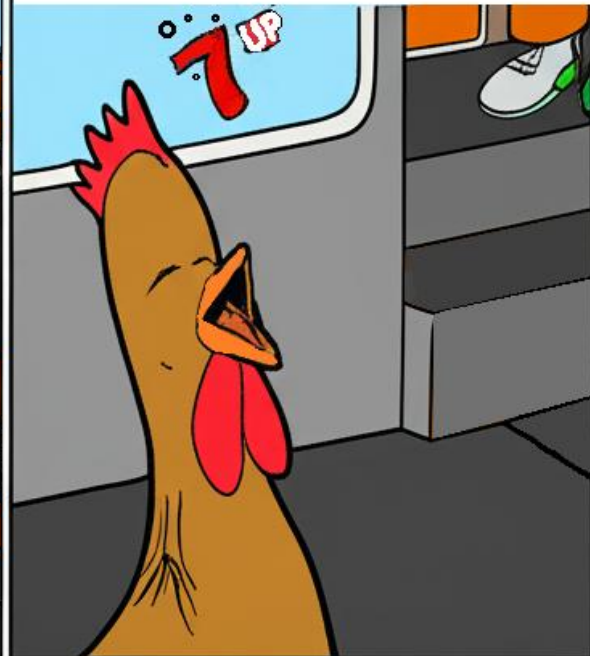
Webb has already written stories about various quirky subjects, including the "Vegetarian Mosquito," and the Giant Pink Lizard of Catlick Creek."



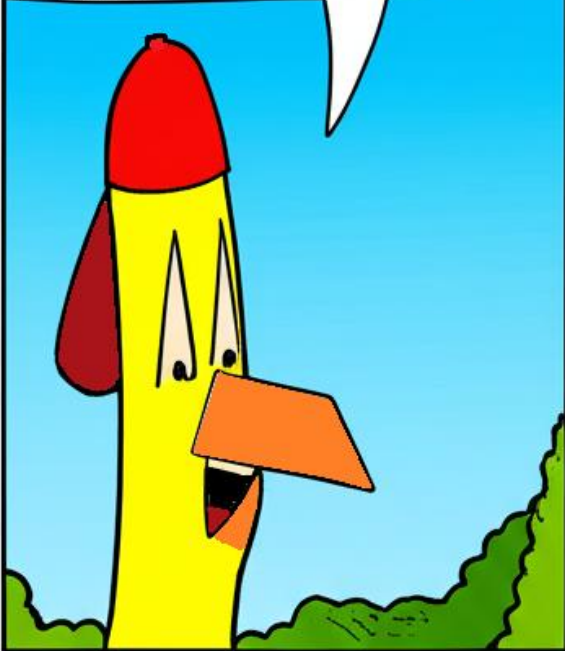
Bus drivers on the Lake Shore Line shared with Webb that a rooster living a block from the station had a knack for knowing when their busses would arrive in Ashville.



Everyday he would dash to the bus stop to greet the arriving riders and and those leaving with a throaty cluck.



Naturally, this quirky tale got Webb's curiosity, and he was eager to meet this bird.



He set up a meeting to catch Chic-Chic in action.



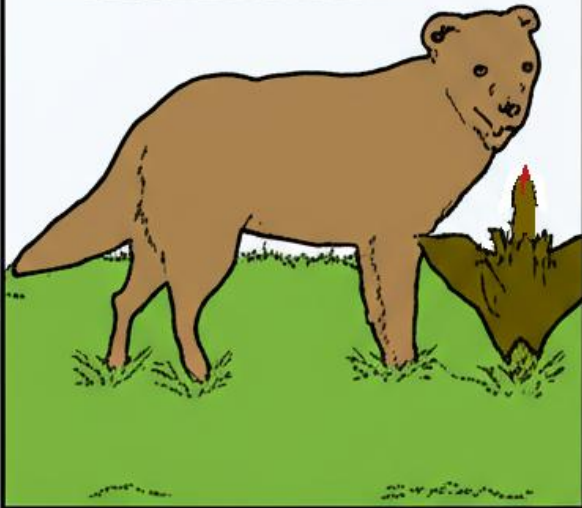
When he arrived with his photographer, he found Chic-Chic comfortably perched on Mrs. Cooper's rocking chair.



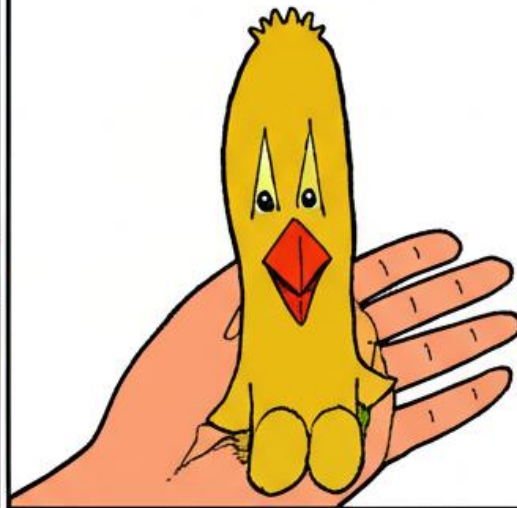
She told him Chic-Chic loved to chat with the townspeople he met as he strutted down the sidewalk.



Although he wasn't too fond of dogs or cats that tried to chase him, his best buddy was Mrs. Cooper's dog, "Sheppie."



Mrs. Cooper also showed Webb an unusual abandoned baby bird she was caring for that she found down by Walnut Creek. She was afraid a cat or wild animal might get him.



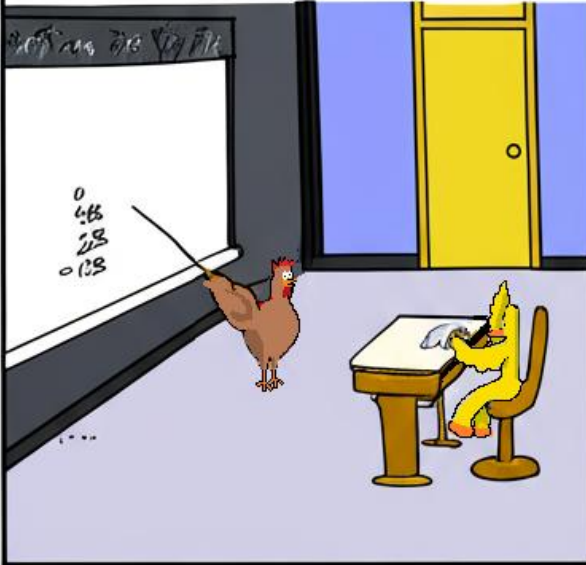
I am naming him after a family friend, Enoch Hines. I am going to call him "Baby Enoch!"



She had a knack for nursing me and other baby birds back to good health.



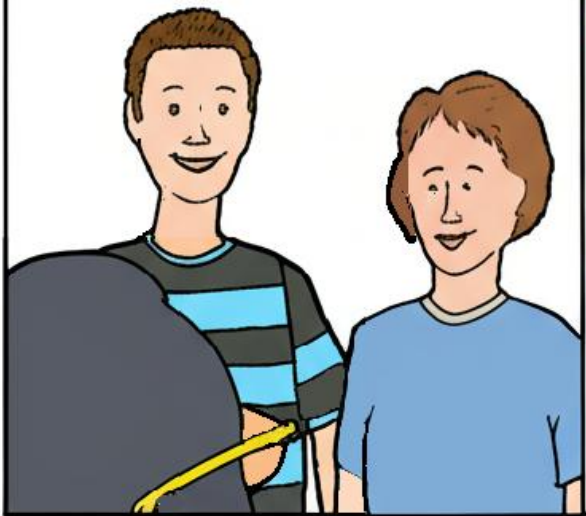
Chic-Chic taught me how to explore the world around me and how to connect with humans and animals--to speak their language.



Honestly, I would not have become a successful bird detective without his guidance.



Now, back to the story...Webb heard from 11 year-old Kathy Stout and 15 year-old Charles Henson that Chic-Chic was quite the local celebrity with a royal lifestyle. To them, he was the King of Ashville.



Charles even took Mr. Webb to the spots where Chic-Chic would take his downtown strolls and the stops he would make along the way.



Clyde Brinker, the owner of a local restaurant and candy store that also served as the town's bus stop, confirmed to Mr. Webb that Chic-Chic would swing by his shop every morning to greet the bus riders.



Clyde's dog "Buster" was known far and wide as the "Dog that Voted Republican."

The townsfolk loved to joke around, asking, "Why did Chic-Chic cross the road?"

Everyone knows it was to greet his many fans!



Some folks even say Chic-Chic inspired the classic riddle, "Why did the chicken cross the road?"

TO SHOW THE POSSUM IT
COULD BE DONE.

BECAUSE HE WANTED TO WARN
EVERYBODY THAT THE SKY WAS FALLING.

TO GET AWAY FROM
COLONEL SANDERS.

NO ONE KNOWS, BUT THE ROAD
WAS UPSET WHEN THE CHICKEN
TURNED AROUND AND WENT BACK.
THE ROAD FELT IT HAD BEEN DOUBLE
CROSSED.

SO YOU COULD SEE
ROULTRY IN MOTION.

BECAUSE THE TRAFFIC LIGHT
WAS RED

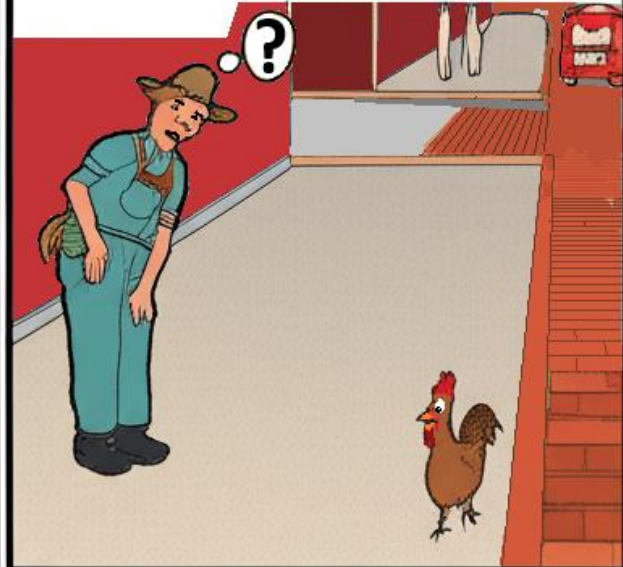
BECAUSE THIS IS AMERICA! HE
CAN DO WHATEVER HE WANTS.

ASK THE CHICKEN!

When Mr. Webb returned to Mrs. Cooper's house, she was giving Chic-Chic a dime.



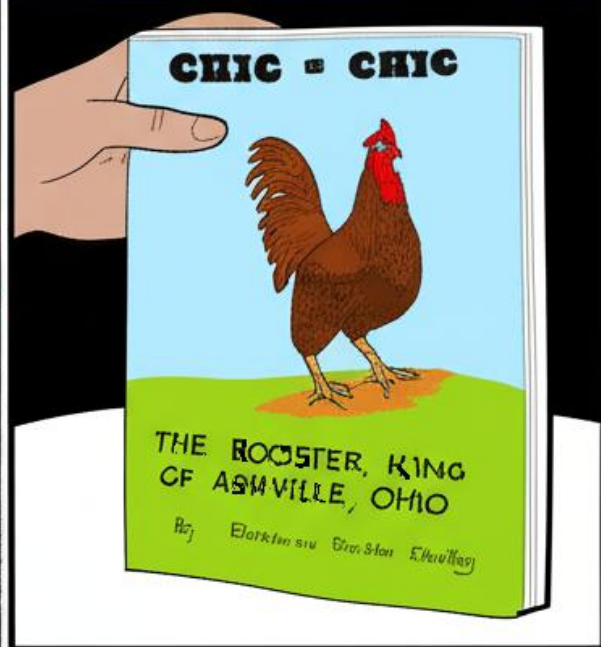
He headed down the sidewalk to Brinker's restaurant. To this day there are people who say they saw Chic-Chic make these daily trips with a dime in his beak.



At that moment, Webb knew this was more than a story about a local legend. He had his photographer capture Chic-Chic's adventures that day for an article in the Sunday Columbus Dispatch.



Eventually, he published a book titled, Chic-Chic--the Rooster King of Ashville, Ohio.



Webb insisted in his book that Chic-Chic's story was the real deal.

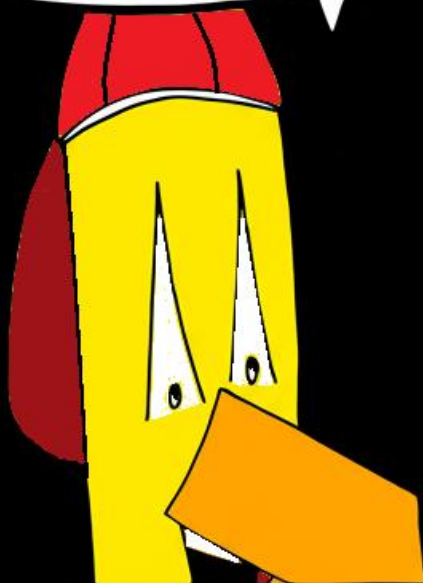
The exploits of Chic-Chic will be enlarged upon generation to generation until it becomes a fantastic tale of a fantastic rooster.



This folklore will become part of the heritage of Ashville.



Chic-Chic's adventures are on display at Ohio's Small Town Museum, but you will never hear Chic-Chic crowing about his past achievements.



So, Baby Waldo, that is why the people of Ashville honor him. As long as there is a museum in Ashville, it will never be.....

**THE
END**