

**May 23rd is National Taffy Day**

## Residents of Dayton enjoy Taffy Pulling Parties



Dayton Daily News  
Thursday, November 10, 1921

### The Taffy Pull

One of the most prevalent types of 19th-century parties was called the candy pull or taffy pull, which involved buttering one's hands and pulling the molasses candy repeatedly.

The requirement for a good candy pull party included a warm kitchen, copper pans, and a good supply of aprons and napkins. Having a good pull also meant that everyone's hands had to be well-buttered to avoid having the candy stick to them. Though candy pulls gained much popularity during the 1840s, they weren't called taffy pulls until about thirty years later.

Cookbooks in nineteenth-century America described taffy as a candy made out of molasses. Most recipes used a combination of sugar and water, along with butter for greasing the taffy pans or in the hands of those who pulled the taffy.

Candy pulls were considered to be a great way to entertain guests with a spontaneous party as this was an event that could be enjoyed by young and old alike.

Candy pulls were used to celebrate birthdays and gatherings of social or church groups. Everyone enjoyed this form of entertainment, even the wealthy. While the attendees were dressed very fashionably, they often enjoyed the evening's entertainment of the sticky taffy pull.

### Taffy Pulling Parties in Dayton

In 1885, the Hoky Poky Club met at the home of Miss Mattie Logan on North Montgomery Street where taffy pulling was the featured entertainment. The young ladies of the club were attired in fanciful caps and aprons made especially for the occasion. About fifty young people were in attendance and all enjoyed the taffy and the sweet time that followed.

On October 30, 1888, Mr. and Mrs. Solenberger of South Terry Street hosted a taffy pulling party. Yards and half yards of the "toothsome taffy" which was of superior quality caused no "vexation of spirit." Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves and anxiously looked forward to the next occasion.

In February 1898, the Woman's Christian Association treated two hundred girls to a taffy pull at their annual party.

Miss Clara Kuhns of Clinton Street entertained a few friends to a card party and taffy-pull on the occasion of her birthday on November 16, 1898.

Master Calvin Cool who turned seven years old in 1903 entertained his playmates with a taffy pull at his birthday party.

In 1910, Clarence McClelland hosted a Halloween party at his home on Forest Avenue. The evening was delightfully spent in games, and late in the evening a taffy pull was enjoyed.

"Briarcliffe," the summer residence of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Weller on the Stillwater River was the location of an informal taffy pull and marshmallow roast in late September 1912.

<b>Candy Sale</b>	
Hershey's Pure Milk Chocolate Special, per pound.....	<b>38c</b>
Fresh Assorted Chocolates—Special, per pound.....	<b>19c</b>
High-Grade Assorted Chocolates—Very special, per pound.....	<b>35c</b>
Snowflake Marshmallow—Special, per pound.....	<b>25c</b>
\$1.00 Milk Chocolate Almonds—Special, per pound.....	<b>65c</b>
Satin Finish Hard Candies—Very special, per pound.....	<b>23c</b>
Home-Made Taffy—Peanut or cocoanut taffy. During this sale, per pound.....	<b>20c</b>
Brazil Cream Nut Taffy—Special, per pound.....	<b>49c</b>
Sophia Mae Peanut Brittle—Special, per pound box.....	<b>35c</b>
Oelman's—Main Floor	

Candy Sale advertisement  
Oelman Department Store  
Dayton Daily News  
Wednesday, November 9, 1921

**SATURDAY—**  
**TAFFY**  
**DAY at . . . 25c**

**8 Different Flavors of Soft Chewing Taffies**

Rike-Kumler's soft chewing taffies are delicious—pure, wholesome, made in our own Candy Shop. We are offering this special price for Saturday only, to acquaint you with these excellent flavors — vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, molasses, pecan, walnut, lemon, or maple.  
(Main floor.)

Rike's Department Store  
Dayton Daily News  
Friday, March 8, 1918

### William F. Oelman and Oelman's Department Store

William Oelman was born in 1852 to German immigrants in Cincinnati. Moving to Dayton, he founded a dry goods store in the early 1880s, first at 1133, then 1101 Wayne Avenue, where the Pizza Factory restaurant is now. He, his wife, and their four children lived above the store.

After a brief partnership with a dry goods store on Third Street, William F. Oelman & Co. moved to its final location in the Kuhns Building at the northwest corner of Fourth and Main where the store eventually occupied five floors.

Oelman became a prominent businessman and leader in the community. When the store moved downtown, the family also moved to a house fitting their rise in status but still in South Park. They purchased 309 Park Drive, a massive Queen Anne brick house. When they later downsized, they moved next door to half of 303 Park.

William's son Walter carried on the family business. Despite going blind from glaucoma at the age of 37, he became the mayor of Oakwood.

Walter's son Robert became CEO of NCR and the founding chairman of Wright State University. Oelman Hall is named for him.

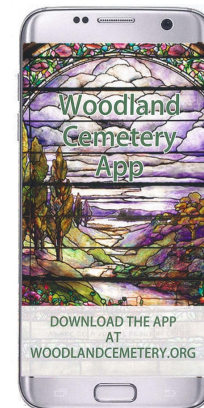
William F. Oelman died on February 2, 1922 at the age of 69. He is located in Section 113 Lot 152.



You can take your own walking tour at the cemetery or a virtual tour from the comfort of your couch by visiting our website at: [woodlandcemetery.org/tours](http://woodlandcemetery.org/tours).

From your phone you will be prompted to download our app. Take one of 12 walking tours we have available for your enjoyment at the cemetery. If you are on your desktop, laptop or tablet, you can take the tour right from the tour page. We will be adding more tours so come back often to learn about the men and women who made it Great in Dayton.

Download the mobile app for your phone by clicking [here](#).



Memories of a loved one should last for generations.

Using our app, you can:

- Navigate to your relative or friend's grave using our GPS-based system
- Share stories about your family
- Upload photos and video
- Share memories with your family on Facebook

Your loved one's memorial page is automatically created when you make cemetery arrangements with our office. You may also share and upload information by using our burial database via our website ([woodlandcemetery.org](http://woodlandcemetery.org)). (please contact our office if you need assistance)

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**WOODLAND**  
HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



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For a limited time and while supplies last, make a donation of \$100 to the Arboretum Foundation and receive a Woodland face mask. Limit one per household.

Donate on our secure website by clicking below or click on the check to receive a donation form to mail in.

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