

The TRACKER

Terrace Park Historical Society

Vol. I No. 3

Cracking Our Past and Present for the Future

August 2002

Bygone Days in Terrace Park

Sunday afternoon, September 8 at 4 p.m.

Community House

Virginia Marquett and Ralph Vilardo will reminisce about growing up in the village. Find out if it really was "the good old days".

...and this is the way it was back then...

The Terrace Park Historical Society is building an oral history library. It is important that we collect these interviews, as access to memories of the past is slipping away. Many people live here who remember the 1920s and 1930s, and are members of families who lived in the area for a generation or more before them. The Society is eager to get input from anyone interested.

Talks with Helen Christopher Barnett, Eliza Eveland Brown, and Ruth Strathmann Clayton have provided a wealth of background material which give a picture of what life was like in the village in the era between the great wars. Here are a few excerpts from the interviews.

About the town—In the '20s there were only a handful of houses between St. Thomas Church and the village green with great open fields between. Helen tells that her great grandfather lived on New Street, and her maternal grandparents, and aunt and uncle lived on Cambridge, plus a great aunt and uncle and paternal grandparents lived on Oxford. Helen lives in the house at 215 Oxford that her parents built after they married.

Liza remembers that there were only 9 houses on Park Avenue in the 1920's.

Ruth's father built many houses in the village—The "Eppa Rixey house" at 108 Miami and the "Loren Gatch house" at 104 Miami were among them. He also built the tourist cabins which later were modified to become the Yankee Dollar. For many years some of the gypsy clan which came through Cincinnati each spring to hold memorial services at Spring Grove Cemetery would rent those cabins. ("Everybody would keep their doors locked that week," says Ruth.)

Going to school—Liza and Ruth both remember that first and second grade were held in the Community House. All three ladies remember that the teacher was Mrs. Cooke, (mother of Donald Cooke, the "bee man". She was also Helen Christopher's father's first grade teacher.) One day there was a fire in the Community House office. School was not canceled, but moved temporarily to the Eveland's Park Avenue dining room—which Lize thought was "pretty neat".

Forever Tillie—It wasn't every kid who could tell with a straight face that an elephant used to walk by the school on its way to the post office to pick up the family's mail—but Helen, Liza and Ruth can. And Ruth remembers Tillie's funeral in 1932. Apparently Tillie was buried in an unused well or cistern—just her head showed above the well. The whole school was there and an airplane flew over and dropped balloons. (For more Robinson Circus lore, see Ellis Rawnsley's book, A Place Called Terrace Park.)

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We Get Letters

Dear Tracker, When I lived in Terrace Park in the 1950's there was hushed talk about "the Grove". I knew that there were some shabby houses down by the river, that residents were often washed out in a flash flood and that there were "goings on" at a bar down there. My parents remembered a cold winter night when that bar caught fire and burned because the roads were too icy for the volunteer firemen to get to the fire truck quickly.. Can the real story now be told? *Shy Gal*

Society Welcomes More New Members

Joe and Noel Dehner
Margaret Dereniuk
Kay Everhart
H. Barton Hebble, Jr
Rita Leming
Hap and Ann Lindell
Bob and Sandy Lowery
Robert K. Reuter
Dan and Jan Watkins

What's Up with the TPHS

The Archives are currently stored at Lee and Carol Cole's home, but will ultimately be housed at St. Thomas Church.

The Thursday afternoon bunch—Betsy Holloway, Leslie Jones, Mary Annett, Marie Stoecklin, Lynn Nelson, Jane Hageman, Adrian Bente, Helen Campbell, Peg Patten and Carol— copying and filing the clippings from Stan Miller's scrapbooks. This treasure consists of an extensive collection of newspaper articles from the 1940's until the early 1980's.

Financial health of TPHS: The treasury has a balance of just under \$1900.

Dear Shy, Tracker Lady would also like to know the unvarnished details about that place where no one trod, (unless it was some curious teenage boys who didn't tell), or some good PTA mother who took clothes to those devastated by a flood. Who remembers when and how Council was able to cut through Hamilton County politics that reputedly provided protection to the bar and also to get the shacks condemned?

If you want to share personal remembrances, hearsay or experiences, Tracker Lady will compile the information for the TPHS archives and write a feature for **The Tracker**.

Golden Opportunity!

What? Note cards using the late Ken Norvell's montage of Terrace Park landmarks.

Who? Gregg MacMillan produced them for the Society to use as a little fund-raiser.

Nice? TPHS's stationery experts declare them to be printed on the finest quality paper.

Price? A very reasonable **\$6.00 for 10 cards.**

The Tracker
327 Rugby Avenue
Terrace Park, OH 45174



Sept. 8 at 4 p.m.
COME!