

# The INFORMER

## Terrace Park Historical Society

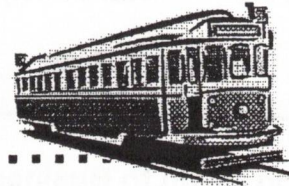
Volume I Number 1

January 2002

### Electric Railroads and Traction Lines

John Downey and Dave McNeil, Guest speakers  
Sunday afternoon, February 10 at 4 p.m.

St. Thomas Church Undercroft  
(see article below)



### Village's High Society Turns Out For Gala Event

by Penelope Sibley

Mr. and Mrs. John Rockaway were hosts to over fifty long-time residents of Terrace Park on the evening of December 12 at Gravelotte, their grand newly-remodeled home on Elm Avenue. The Open House, to which they had graciously invited members of the Terrace Park Historical Society, must surely be considered the highlight of the town's Holiday Social Season.

Mrs. Rockaway graciously allowed her guests to roam freely through the many beautifully decorated rooms which were filled with period antiques, lovingly collected over many years. Of special note was the creative way the owners had redesigned many of the original spaces to make them fit their own more modern life style. I loved the two generous offices with a giant trophy desk in one.

Society members brought delectable desserts, which were spread on the giant dining table—it was truly a groaning board of treats. The table, and all the rooms, were stunningly decked out for the Holiday Season.

The Rockaways moved to this historic house from Missouri. John and his wife Linda purchased the landmark home just before his retirement, knowing that the Italianate Victorian mansion, built before 1870, would provide a perfect home for their antiques. John had lived on Yale Avenue in his youth, thus the lure of Terrace Park.

The land was originally owned by early settler John Cleves Symmes. Perhaps the house was built by Thomas R. Biggs, as the centerpiece of his subdivision, Gravelotte.

### Who We Are

The new Terrace Park Historical Society is obviously a thing "whose time has come", as many of the mechanics of organization have fallen in place since the group first met on November 5, 2001.

St. Thomas Church and Rector Don Waring generously offered the gift of a meeting place plus some storage and work space for the collection of the historical materials which had been stored for years in the dank cellar of the Community Building.

Thanks to Ken Bassett, the Society is legally incorporated as of September 14, 2001. Ken has also filed application for 501 (c)3 non-profit status.

### About Our Feb. 10 Meeting

John Downey and Dave McNeil are electric railroad historians, who have studied and written extensively about the railroads and traction lines of Southwestern Ohio. Stan Brown has invited them to talk to us about their passion. We will learn about a spot in Terrace Park where three rail lines crossed, and will be sitting almost on top of it.



*Officers*

Carol Cole.....President  
 Betsy Holloway.....V.Pres.  
 Bill Holloway.....Treasurer  
 Kay Pope.....Secretary  
 Ken Bassett.....Legal Advisor

*Board of Trustees*

Helen Barnett Stan Brown  
 Lee Cole Julie Northrop

Pat Henley.....Editor

**Terrace Park Historical Society Members**

Roy & Jane Allan	Marilyn Julnes
Mary Annett	Jean Kinmonth
Helen Barnett	Tom & Kathy Koustermer
Ken & Polly Bassett	Frank & Coleen Lowe
Marty & Adrienne Bente	Gregg & Linda MacMillan
Bruce & Eliza Brown	Virginia Marquette
Jack & Rosemarie Brown	Alan McAllister
Stan & Shirley Brown	Harriet (Happy) McKee
Helen Campbell	Dick & Lynne Mileham
Doug & Anne Cherry	Al & Lynn Nelson
Elizabeth Clancey	Normile & Associates
Ruth Clayton	Ted & Julie Northrop
Carol B. Cole	Bill & Gwen Nunn
Lee & Carol C. Cole	Peggy Pettit
Dick & Vera DeCamp	Mike & Kay Pope
John & Jane Diehl	Stu & Bunny Proctor
Patricia DiMichele	Carl & Jeanette Pruiss
Bill & Mame Drackett	Jim & Ruth Rauth
Pat Fehl	John & Linda Rockaway
Jim & Ann Gilchrist	Bill & Betsy Schwinn
Alan & Bette Griffith	Jack & Barbara Smith
Jane Hageman	St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Robert & Do Haines (FL)	Roger & Frances Stafford
Bob & Louise Halley	Pete & Edna Stites
Bob & Pat Henley	Mary Tarkington (OR)
Norvita Hildbold	Ace & Helen Tollefsen
Bill & Betsy Holloway	Margaret VanFrank
John Holloway (WA)	Alan Warner
Leslie Jones	Clare Williams

**Getting Down to Business**

Properly caring for the decades-long accumulation of archival materials is high priority for President Carol. Every Thursday afternoon she and others meet in the Guild Room at St. Thomas to file and copy the treasure trove of deteriorating documents. Currently Adrienne Bente, Leslie Jones, Betsy Holloway and Lynn Nelson are working to preserve and catalog the neglected papers.

Lynn and Al Nelson have donated a new portable copier for the Society office. Vice President Betsy Holloway pointed out that this makes it possible to copy records easily to acid free paper and thus increase the life of the materials. Also, should someone want a copy of an old document, it can be copied on the spot.

Lee Cole's company, The Center for Economic Initiatives, is donating a computer. This, and a scanner and printer will be housed at Cole's.

**MYSTERY QUIZ**

One of our members has lived in five different houses in Terrace Park. A.. Who?  
 B. Can anyone top that?

**.....and some trivia**

How many years of residence in Terrace Park is represented in the current membership of the TPHS?..2,000 years would be on the extremely low side (counting a family as one unit). ...Remember times when a Penn-Central Railroad train got stuck charging up that long incline from Cincinnati to Loveland, and kept spinning its wheels hour after hour? And, the time several rail cars just overturned adjacent to Terrace Place? ...When the tracks were removed during the '70's hundreds of insulators were left scattered on the ground. There will be several available for members as souvenirs at the February meeting. ...During the Great Depression building lots sold for 50 cents a front foot. In the '50's the price was about \$25. ...and, by the way, when did home delivery of mail begin?