

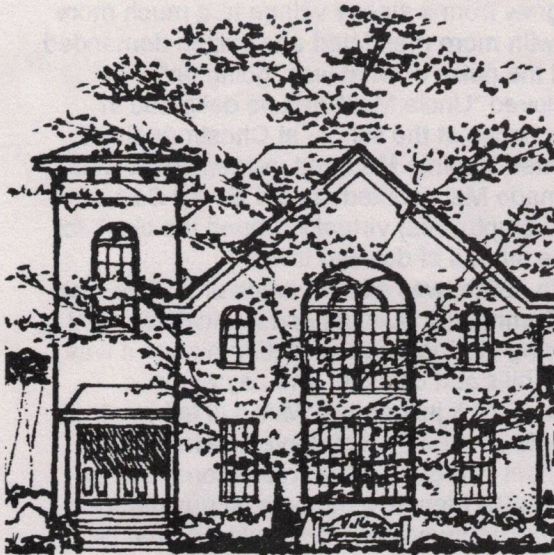
The TRACKER

Terrace Park Historical Society

Vol. II No. 2

Tracking Our Past and Present for the Future

April 2003



Memories of the Community House

Sunday, May 4 at 4:00 p.m.

Go back in time to relive good times at the Community House with

Liza Brown, Pat Matchette, Helen Barnett, Libby Clancy, Dave Pannkuk, and Liz Martin

Betsy Holloway is coordinating this afternoon of nostalgia. She invites everyone to conjure up a special memory to share.

Give 'em a John Robinson.

..and more about the Robinson Circus. Here are excerpts from a talk given by Lynn Nelson to the Terrace Park Woman's Club in March.

At its peak in the late 1890's, the Robinson Circus was as famous as any in America. As many as 35 or more railroad cars, including the sumptuous private car in which the family traveled, were needed to move the circus. These were the days when the big event of the summer for many a rural town was the day the big top rolled in.

There were four generations of John Robinsons. First was John I, known as Uncle John—born in 1802, died in 1888. He ran away from home, joined a small wagon show and became a fine equestrian. Later he started his own circus. In about 1850 he developed an eye ailment and was referred to a specialist in Cincinnati. He liked the city and settled here.

His son, John II—born 1843, died in 1921. He was a fine rider, a tumbler and a leaper. *(So widely did he become known, and so firm was his grasp on circus affairs, that he was "Governor" Robinson when he began setting up winter quarters in Terrace Park.*

A Place Called Terrace Park, page 40.) The Governor was one of Terrace Park's first councilmen and contributed \$15 to start a General Fund, as well as funding the building of St. Thomas Church as a memorial to his daughter.

John G. III—born 1872 and died in 1935. *Lynn's Aunt Em* was friend and companion to Lenora Smith, John's wife. Lenora was a sister of Kessler Smith who lived on Stanton Avenue. It was John G. who sold the circus in 1916, after great financial losses. He only kept the elephants Tony, Pit and Clara, as well as the remarkable Tillie.

John IV, Jr. was active with the circus in his early years but later became an attorney.

As for "Give 'em a John Robinson"—it was not a complimentary slogan, but a derogatory one, as a result of the reputation the circus had for unfair dealings in the circus world—probably shortchanging customers by shortening the show.

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

TPHS memberships are for the calendar year—\$15 single, \$25 family. Pay to Bill Holloway, 309 Terrace Place.

FOR SALE President Carol reports that there are still 2 copies of David McNeil's new book about the Kroger line (see 2-10-02 meeting), \$25.

The Society also has copies of Cincinnati Revealed, a wonderful new collection of old pictures of Cincinnati (not TP). One of its editors is Kevin Grace, who acknowledges being inspired by Ellis Rawnsley. \$19.95.

NOTE CARDS, ANYONE .. Julie Northrop still has a few packets of those with Terrace Park landmarks **10 for \$6.**

A Memorable Personality—Matt Cook, Chief

Everyone knew Matt Cook, as he was highly visible in all aspects of village life. He was our one man police department for a long time, as well as the street commissioner and maintenance supervisor. When Matt retired at the end of 1969, he had been police chief of Terrace Park for twenty years. His tenure bridged the years as Terrace Park grew from a sleepy village to a much more populous suburb with more mandated and citizen demanded policing. He had the pulse of what was "going on".

The kids loved "Uncle Matt" and he delighted in passing out candy canes at the school at Christmas-time.

His daughter, Virginia Marquett, remembered that after the 1969 tornado Matt worked (as did Mayor Carl Lindell and village employees) virtually around the clock for weeks, to clear the streets of downed trees.

Matt's wife, Edith, was also a personality. She was custodian of the Community Building and clerical assistant to the mayor. During the "garbage collection hiatus" it was Edith who sent the bills and collected the payments.

Stan Miller said it just right—"Matt will tell you that the positions he held so many years, gave him much pleasure, amusement and quite a few frustrations. For he was dealing mostly with friends, neighbors, acquaintances and as always, a few enemies. But he would say that he was trying to do the job in a neighborly manner, as officials and citizens would wish it to be done."

Welcome to our new members: Jeanne Cadwallader, Eleanor Gallagher, Art & Margaret Goewey, Pax & Abby Lindell, and Christine Wildman.

Thank you to the Terrace Park Women's Club for its \$150 donation to TPHS.

N.B. If you find mistakes in this publication, consider they are there for a reason. We strive to include a little something for everyone in this newsletter and some people like to look for mistakes.

The Tracker

327 Rugby Avenue
Terrace Park, OH 45174



MAY 4 at 4 P.M.
COME!

Terrace Park Historical Society 2003 Members Survey

The Society is continually striving to improve services to its members and the public, and values your comments and opinions. We need to know what you like about the Society and what improvements, changes or additions you'd like to see. Please take a few moments to fill out this survey and get it back to us.

- 1) What about the Terrace Park Historical Society interests you?
 - The Tracker
 - Articles in Village Views
 - Programs
 - Volunteer work
 - Research
 - Field trips
 - Web site
 - Building survey

- 2) What do you or would you like to do?
 - Help in the archives Monday or Thursday afternoons (or other times).
 - Organizing, filing, data entry, research
 - Collect oral histories (especially need men)
 - Collect Cincinnati Post articles for the archives
 - Write articles for Village Views
 - Visit special exhibits or go on field trips
 - Provide refreshments for meetings
 - Video or audiotape meetings
 - Other?

- 3) Have you been pleased overall with the Society's services?
Are there any details you'd like to share - either pro or con?

- 4) What ideas do you have for future programs?
What ideas do you have for future exhibits? Would you be willing to help?

- 5) We may have an Open House in 2004. Would you be willing to help?

- 6) We need volunteers to work with the schools to develop school programs.
We have some ideas. Does this interest you?

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ e-mail address _____

**Please return your completed survey to
Carol C. Cole. 629 Myrtle Avenue, Terrace Park OH 45174**

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Bill Holloway.....Treasurer
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HOW TO SAVE 37 CENTS--Outgoing treasurer, Bill Holloway, will gladly accept your 2004 dues at the November 2 meeting. He would even accept your heartfelt yearend contribution.

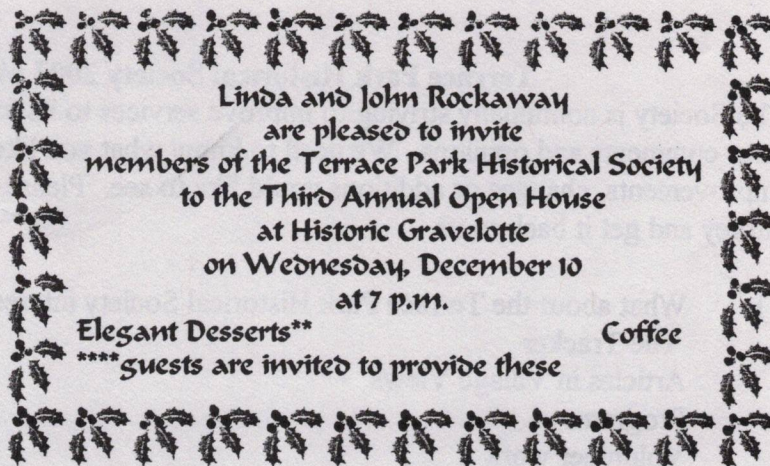
NOTECARDS with Terrace Park sketches are still available--10 for \$6.00. See J. Northrop.

TOP TEN SPOTS IN TP? Pick yours

Village Green	Log Cabin
Community House	Nature Preserve
Drackett Field	Future Bike Trail
St. Thomas Church	Little Miami River
"Robinson's tunnel"	
Village on December Luminaria night	

Welcome new members--El and Jane Hubka

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4.



Linda and John Rockaway
are pleased to invite
members of the Terrace Park Historical Society
to the Third Annual Open House
at Historic Gravelotte
on Wednesday, December 10
at 7 p.m.

Elegant Desserts**

Coffee

****guests are invited to provide these

Election Time--Even for TPHP

The Board of Trustees has nominated three candidates to replace retiring members of TPHP's founding team. They are: Leslie Jones and John Rockaway for Board of Trustees to replace Julie Northrop and Lee Cole. Carol B. Cole is nominated to replace Bill Holloway as Treasurer.

Other nominations should be sent to Carol C. Cole before the meeting.

Ken Bassett is retiring from the Board but will continue to be legal advisor.



Historical Fact or Fantasy??
Where, IF ANY, are Terrace Park's
Haunted Houses??

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see you on Nov. 2
4 p.m.