

# The TRACKER

## Terrace Park Historical Society

Vol. II No. 3

*Tracking Our Past and Present for the Future*

August 2003



**GIVE 'EM A JOHN ROBINSON**

Sunday, September 7 at 4:00 p.m.  
Community House

Our own lady lion-tamer, Lynn Nelson,  
recreates the circus life of a bygone time with  
unique memorabilia

### Blessed New Space for TPHS

Thanks to the generosity of Don Waring, rector of St. Thomas Church, the entire operation of the TPHS was moved from Cole's basement to two large former nursery school rooms on July 31. Ample storage space, many work tables, freshly painted walls, and giant windows characterize the heavenly new headquarters.

Thanks also to members who painted walls and moved desks, the computer, and filing cabinets. Leslie Jones reportedly spread the most white latex, but Bill and Betsy Holloway, Linda and John Rockaway, Lee and Carol Cole joined in. The heavy movers were Lee Cole, Roger Stafford, Jim Gilchrist, and Kevin Jahne.

An open house is planned for late fall.

### It Seems Like Only Yesterday. . .

.....*The Great Tornado of August 9, 1969.* It was a hot and rainy Saturday evening when suddenly a roaring wind slashed through the north end of the village, felling trees and lifting roof shingles. Cambridge, Oxford, Miami and Rugby Avenues took the brunt of the violence. No one was hurt, but the cleanup took weeks. Fifty trees were uprooted and more than 1,000 were damaged. Mayor Carl Lindell organized the cleanup effort and the state sent in trucks to help. Scores of loads of damaged timber from ours and some neighboring communities were dumped into the area once known as Miami Grove, and now is our nature preserve.

What a dramatic story it was for the fledgling Village Views!

.....*The Miami Avenue Extension* Before the easy glide down Miami Avenue to Wooster Pike, residents crossed the creek on a rickety iron bridge which entered the pike just east of the overpass. In 1949 the bus line refused to use the structure and plans were drawn to replace it. The original cost was to be about \$40,000. But in true Terrace Park fashion, a long-time resident lawyer, George Hawke, (he enlisted his friend, artist Charles Meurer as a co-plaintiff) entered a "taxpayers suit" to stop the project. Eight years later the culvert and new road were installed, by then at a cost of \$60,000. Bonds were issued by the village and for more than a decade a small millage was added to our real estate tax bill to retire them.

*The Saga of the "Bomb Shelter" aka "Public Building"* and that is for another day.

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TPHS's Web Site—[tphistoricalsociety.org](http://tphistoricalsociety.org)

### 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.

WANTED: Folding work tables, folding chairs, and filing cabinets for the new TPHS home.

THANK YOU to the Mariemont Kiwanis Club for its generous donation of \$.200.

WELCOME: Dottie and Fred Vickers are new members of TPHS.

WELCOMED: Articles of great historical importance regarding the Village of Terrace Park which would interest readers of the TRACKER. Or, have A Question? Send it to the Editor and we shall research it. PMH

N.B. The Thursday ladies have finished copying and cataloging all of Stan Miller's scrap books. Stan's collections are a treasure trove for TPHS, but YOU probably have invaluable materials which can help build and refine our data base.

## The Tracker

327 Rugby Avenue  
Terrace Park, OH 45174



September 7 at 4 p.m.

COME TO THE CIRCUS

## ?????? Questions You Ask ??????

*Mary Beth Tarkington wonders from whence came the canons on the Village Green.*

No, they were not captured from the rebels in the Civil War, but were obtained in the late 1940's "with great effort" by members of Terrace Park's American Legion Post. These anti-tank guns which came from the War Department, were a type used in the Battle of the Bulge and throughout the European campaign.

They were originally placed on either side of the Honor Roll which stood on the Village Green at the corner of Amherst and Terrace Place. The honor roll was designed by then Mayor Carl Lindell and Allen Lloyd coordinated the project with Council and the Garden Club.

In the 1970's Council decided to decommission the deteriorating honor roll, and those whose names were on the memorial were given their name board. About that time the Green was re-landscaped. The guns, for which the village children and parents had developed a sentimental attachment, were moved to the new memorial area near the flag pole.

The story of the local American Legion Post provides another footnote in Terrace Park history.

The post was organized in 1947 after WWII with 177 charter members. It was named the Francis George Baldwin Post to honor the memory of Lt. Baldwin, a former resident, who was killed in Italy in 1944. John Gehrig, a former village solicitor, was the organizer and its first commander.

Membership numbers fluctuated widely and by 1962 only 27 names were still on the roster. The charter was revoked by the state Legion in 1963.

Other members of the charter group whose names may be familiar are John D. Rockaway, Harrison Clancy, Jr., Robert Van Frank, John Brown McKee and McKee, Jr. Bruce Brown and Stewart Proctor were also early members of the chapter.