

The TRACKER

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Terrace Park Historical Society

February 2005

Tracking Our Past and Present for the Future

Miami Grove Revisited Sunday, March 6 at 4 p.m. Community House

Max Wiseman, Bobbie Scott and other residents of the old "Grove" will reminisce about their life and adventures in what is now our Nature Preserve.

President Susan Frank has arranged this special program which will "tell it like it was" for those of us who wondered, but never knew.

? ? Revisiting Miami Grove ? ?

..... It was a cold and icy winter night in January 1957. About 5 a.m. the fire siren whined up and down and up and down, for an eternity, it seemed. What was happening?

..... In the 1920's there was a community of about forty well-maintained summer "camps" along the Little Miami River, just adjacent to the Terrace Park corporation. What happened to them?

..... Can you believe that there was once a huge and popular dance hall in Terrace Park's backyard. Can we pinpoint the spot? What happened to it?

..... This area was annexed by Terrace Park in 1940, and then purchased by the village in 1957 from the Hodges family, subject to a life estate. The land was released to the village in 1966. What happened to the 62 acre parcel in 1971 ?

..... Flash floods were virtually an annual spring event. The 1957 one was particularly devastating, and precipitated official action. What was the result?

..... Ford Road was the way in and out of the Grove. What was it like in the rainy season? Is it still there? Was there a ford at the river?

Come to the meeting on March 6 to find the answers to these questions, and to share you memories and stories.

. . . downstream from Miami Grove

At the turn of the [last] century, the shores of the Little Miami River were dotted with summer homes from Terrace Park to well below Newtown.

Just downstream from Stump's, where there is a riffle in the river, was one of the most popular locations, the Tower Hill Canoe Club.

A few canoe strokes away was Hartman's Grove, later, Avoca Park. The Pennsylvania Railroad, Wooster Pike and C.M. & L. traction afforded splendid transportation for this popular picnic spot.

Just east of that, a group of Harvard alums built two two-story houses for vacation use. . . "they drove out from the city in fringed surreys, every Friday evening during the summer months, for the weekend. Each surrey was drawn by two teams of fine horses."

On the south side of the river a lane led across corn and wheat fields to the Aicholtz farm—they "shared milk and fresh vegetables with campers."

*Excerpted and quoted from
Down by the Old Mill Race
By Marie Welch Burke (1973)*

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TPHS dues for 2005

\$25 family

or \$15 individual

Treasurer Carol B. Cole

725 Wooster Pike, T.P.

PLEASE REMIT IF THERE IS A RED MARK ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL.



Not so long ago . . .

70 people attended the exhibit-rich Nov. 7 Open House at TPHS quarters at St. Thomas Church, 40 or so members celebrated the holiday season with desserts and good conversations at Gravelotte in early December.

Trivia, trivia. . 1904—First telephone installed in T.P.
1909—Water mains and street lights came to town.
1923— a whopping \$2,950 in fines was collected for violation of prohibition laws. Terrace Park population—410.

Visit our website: www.tphistoricalsociety.org

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**The One That Got Away, OR
Shades of the Bad Old Times**

The Terrace Park Country Club, which was organized about 1912, occupied land bounded by the Little Miami River, Oxford, Miami and Sycamore. Carl and Jeanette Pruiss now own and live in the building that was their clubhouse.

In 1937 a group of club members and other village residents petitioned Council with a proposed ordinance: TO DECLARE IT NECESSARY FOR THE VILLAGE OF TERRACE PARK TO BUY THE FORMER TERRACE PARK COUNTRY CLUB GROUNDS AND IMPROVE SAME FOR PARK AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSE, AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR ISSUING \$30,000 20 YEAR BONDS TO PAY, etc., etc.....

At that time village population was around 850, and the assessed valuation was about \$1,300,000. Houses sold for \$5,000 to \$10,000 and not much higher. It was estimated that the tax rate would be \$1.70 per \$1,000. Council honored the petition and a bond issue appeared on the ballot in 1940.

(For comparison—In 2003 the assessed value of taxable real estate in Terrace Park was over \$94,000,000.)

"These funds would provide a community building with an auditorium to provide facilities for bowling, badminton, ping-pong, shuffle board, a boating pavilion on the river and a 90 foot swimming pool. There could be a few holes for golf, and the tennis courts were the best anywhere. Architects submitted an elaborate plan." There was even a possibility for some federal funding.

The issue failed. Apparently, the idea seemed too exuberant in the period just at the end of the Great Depression, and the added tax burden would probably have been more than the operating levy for the village.

(Excerpted and quoted from an undated Stan Miller article .)