

Tracker

Tracking our Past and Present for the Future

Volume V, Number 3

Summer 2006

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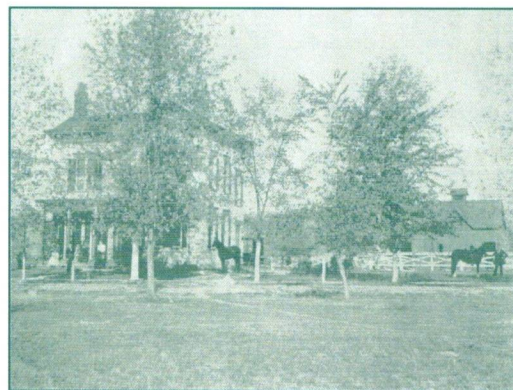
Dates to Remember

Wednesday
September 27, 7:00 PM
Meeting/Program
"The Way We Were"
Terrace Park School

November 5, 4:00 P.M.
Location to be Determined
Annual Meeting/Program
"The Underground Railroad in
Clermont County"

Did You Know?

In 1877, or a bit earlier, George Washington Corey built this home for himself and his new bride. According to Charlie Cornish, who lived across the street at 725 Wooster Pike and was a builder, it was the first house west of the Allegheny Mountains built using poured concrete. The 1900 Census shows George and Rachel Corey living there. He was 77 and she 66. They had been married 22 years but had no children. After George died in 1907, Mrs. Corey continued living in the house but not alone. The 1910 Census lists her as a farmer on a farm, but in fact she had 5 or 6 boarders living with her. Several were teachers, one was a 42-year old hired man, a farmer, and one was a 36-year old cook. The 1920 Census lists her as the Manager of a Boarding House with one servant and four boarders, no occupations mentioned. By 1930 Mrs. Corey was 96 years old and living alone. On her 100th birthday, February 4, 1934, Terrace Park paid tribute to her with a Sunday afternoon party in the Community House. Her husband built it after the Baptist Sunday School, which she started in their home, outgrew that space. The celebration, attended by over 500 people, included "songs, music and a pageant depicting the various episodes" in her life. She died peacefully in her sleep the next day. The house still stands at 722 Wooster Pike but is now listed as 723 Indian Hill Road.



George Washington Corey built this house at 722 Park Avenue in the 1880s for his son Willard (by his first wife). If you look carefully, you can see it was built to the same plan as his own home on Wooster Pike (above). It too is built of poured concrete. This picture shows the home somewhat later when it was occupied by the Robert Jones family. He was a distant relative of the Conkling family who ran the Terrace Market when it was first built. The carriage house, which can be seen to the east of the house in this picture, was torn down in 1963 to build 720 Park Avenue. Here one can see not only the wide spaces left between houses built at that time but also a country lifestyle long gone in Terrace Park. The 1900 Census shows Robert Jones (age 56) and his wife Sidney (age 55) living here with their two sons Robert Jr. (27) and Eugene (33). Robert and Sidney had been married 35 years. Eugene had been married 9 years to Elsie, who with their two children, Marguerita (8) and Elsie (4) also lived here along with one 35-year old servant. Both Robert Sr. and Eugene worked for the railroad as freight and passenger agents. Robert Jr. lists no occupation and Marguerita was at school. Obviously, in 1900, there were generally many more people living in a single house than we experience today.

THE WAY WE WERE...

When Terrace Park Had Its Own High School!

By Susan Abernethy Frank

In 1957 Terrace Park High School saw its last graduating class. Emotions were high as so many graduates and friends and families of many years saw this phase of our history come to a close. And yet, many have worked hard to keep the memories alive. R. J. Vilardo is one.

R. J. will not only give a history of the school but will also give highlights from his school years. He will have a slide presentation to show "the way it was". Many of his stories will make you laugh and many could bring tears. But R. J. considers his years of living in Terrace Park and going to Terrace Park School as some of the best years of his life. The first few weeks were difficult for him and his sisters and yet the overall experience was a great one.

Terrace Park High School held its classes in the two colony buildings, which were behind the main building (still standing). Currently, this area has some playground equipment and the parking lot. The "old Colony" building was a frame structure with oiled-down hardwood floors and wooden windows that were pushed out and held open with a piece of wood. The windows were all around the building, one immediately after the other. Most classes were here. The "new Colony" building, a crème colored structure, housed the chemistry room and labs, the business classrooms (with all the typewriters), the home economics room, and the library. Both buildings had front and back porches, which were places to "hang out".

The Elementary School classes were in the main building (built in 1913). The "new addition" with the cafeteria came later, in the mid fifties. The old cafeteria was in the basement of the main building under the gym. More classrooms were added with this new addition.

During R. J.'s years and prior, students came to Terrace Park School from Newtown, Camp Dennison, Indian Hill, Symmes Township, Columbia Township, Plainville, and other areas. The students from Newtown continued to come until their district merged with Anderson (for Fall 1957-58 school year) and Terrace Park was forced to find a place for its students. Obviously, Mariemont was the lucky district.

"We were a close knit group", R. J. said, "with students and educators being very close.

The impact that educators have on students stays with you forever. We were the Terrace Park Bull Dogs from Kindergarten through 12th Grade. We worked hard and played hard and even won a few championships along the way. I still have the football, signed by all the players (1946, 1947) that was given to our coach, Bud Heil. His widow, Edna Heil Hay (my mother), gave it to me and I treasure it."

R. J. will highlight the school activities, the pastimes, styles and lifestyles of teenagers in the 40s. His slide presentation will be a walk down memory lane for some. But to our younger members, this will be a real "eye opener" about life in and out of school before TV and all the other methods of communicating in today's society. R.J.'s slide presentation will show the definite difference in styles from clothes, to hair, to activities. Remember when G. A. A. was the center of all girls' sports? Remember when boys wore coats and ties to school? Remember when football games were in the afternoon because there were no lights? If you do remember, come and reminisce. If you are clueless, come and learn about the legends, history and fun of Terrace Park School in the "early days".



Rear View of Colony Buildings



Donkey Basketball Games

SAVE THIS DATE...

Wednesday, September 27

7:00 P. M. Displays and Refreshments

7:30 P.M. Program

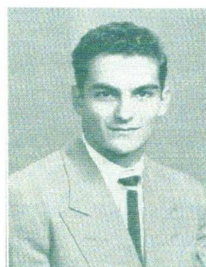
Terrace Park School

Featured Speaker

Ralph "R. J." Vilardo

Terrace Park High School

Class of 1949



R.J.'s Senior Picture

Sandy Koehler, Program Chairperson and TPHS Board Member, and Linda Lee, Elementary School Principal, have arranged for R. J. to give this presentation to students in Grades 4-6 during the afternoon on September 27. The children will have a project to tie-in and there will be displays of their work at the evening program.

New TPHS Board Members

Laurie Baird and Debbie Long were elected to the TPHS Board of Directors at the May 7 meeting/program.

Laurie and her husband Kim have lived in Terrace Park since 1995. The Bairds have 3 children, Ellen, Kelly, and Brian.

Debbie and her husband Bruce have lived in Terrace Park since 1981. Their twin sons, Dan and Creigh, now 23, were born in the Park.

Laurie and Debbie are both involved in many community activities. They will be an asset to the Terrace Park Historical Society.

Preservation District Zoning

(Reprinted from May 2006 *Village Views*)

By Carol C. Cole

On the front page of the Cincinnati Enquirer I find an article entitled "Suburbs ask: Is it time to halt **TEARDOWNS?**" Obviously this is a problem facing many communities in the Cincinnati area so Terrace Park is not alone in its need to do something positive about the situation.

I assume that Terrace Park residents are well aware that the Village has been working for some time on revising Terrace Park's Zoning Code. I believe that Phase One is now nearing completion so it's time to bring up the topic of a possible Conservation District for Terrace Park. Terrace Park is often compared to communities like Mariemont, Wyoming and Glendale. These all have Historic Districts. Because of the way Terrace Park was settled with houses well spread out over the territory that is probably not possible here. We can't show a "streetscape" of similar houses of a particular period or style. However, we do have a very special community character or ambience that many residents want preserved. The Terrace Park Historical Society has contacted Margo Warminski of the Cincinnati Preservation Association for help and she is very willing to come to talk with concerned community residents about what can be done. I now want to quote from an article she has written.

"Across the United States, 'teardowns' – a kind of urban sprawl turned inward – are undermining the look, feel and livability of older and historic communities. As Americans crave expansive new homes but also the convenience of urban and close-in suburban locations, older houses in established neighborhoods are replaced with a single 'monster home' or a crowded set of new homes, and existing homes are expanded beyond all recognition. In the Cincinnati area, teardowns are impacting many communities, including Hyde Park, Glendale, Terrace Park, Wyoming, Madeira and Indian Hill. In Glendale, for example, citizens listed 'overdevelopment' as one of their primary concerns in the Village's 2001 Master Plan Update. Concerned about the unchecked spread of this practice, The National Trust for Historic Preservation listed 'Teardowns in Historic Neighborhoods' on its 2002 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Places.

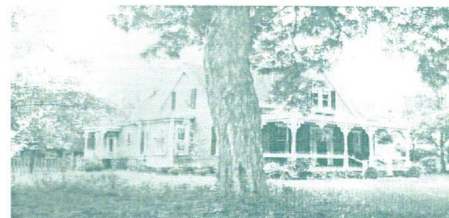
"Oversized, out-of-place new structures disrupt the architectural and historic character of older neighborhoods, diminishing the qualities that originally made these neighborhoods attractive places to live. Teardowns can also alter the economic and social balance of established communities, by eliminating affordable housing options that encourage a diverse population, by raising property values to the point of forcing out long-time residents, and by creating an uncertain and economically unstable environment for those who stay. Removing well-built older buildings with charming, irreplaceable details and replacing them with new structures that are often more cheaply built and use inferior materials.

"What can concerned citizens do to protect their neighborhoods from intrusions teardowns? One of the most widely used tools is conservation district zoning. A conservation zoning overlay is used to preserve the character of the neighborhood by regulating key features such as lot sizes, building sizes and relationships. Because the objective is to preserve the overall character of the neighborhood rather than historic fabric, regulation of demolition and new construction, rather than individual building details, is emphasized. No two conservation districts are alike, because each is tailored to address the concerns of its individual neighborhood. With the help of either planning or preservation boards, residents can develop their own design guidelines and establish a neighborhood review board to determine if owners' proposed changes to their properties are acceptable. It can be as simple or restrictive as the community wants it to be. Currently, some 30 U. S. cities have one or more neighborhood conservation districts."

Certainly our Village has done some work in this direction in Phase One of the revision of our Zoning Code. There are also many houses that have not been torn down but have had appropriate and tasteful additions made that fit very well into the community. In general these additions are ones where there is enough land available that the addition does not make a negative impact on nearby houses. No sense of crowding has occurred. I want to point out that Conservation Zoning is in general less restrictive than Historic District Zoning since it does not deal with "review elements such as porch repair, window replacement, or siding replacement. Conservation Zoning only provides for review of new construction, demolition, or additions to buildings. Real estate agents in the country use both historic and conservation zoning as selling tools and report that values within both kinds of districts are 10 to 20 percent higher than in comparable unprotected areas."

The area we're thinking about as a possible Conservation District in Terrace Park includes the oldest subdivisions: Corey on Park, Pattison and Iuen from Wooster Pike and St. Thomas down to Oxford, Sibley's subdivisions all the way from Oxford to the bluff, Stuntz, which includes 625 Elm and the area around it cut out of the side of the Sibley subdivisions and the Wooster Pike area that once was Camden City. Obviously this does not include several of the oldest homes but there may be a way to include them or protect them in some other way.

I'd love to hear from everyone who is interested in doing something positive to preserve the community character of Terrace Park. I am keeping a list of all those who express that interest to me. We will be inviting Margo Warminski to talk with Terrace Park residents and will let you know when that will be as soon as the date is set. Please contact me at ccole@juno.com or 831-6771. I welcome your comments and suggestions.



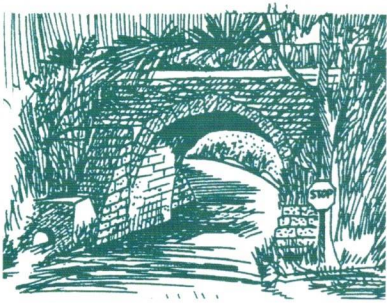
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Tracking our Past and Present for the Future

Artist Corner

Jeanette MacMillan Pruiss

By Pat MacMillan

Jeanette is a native Cincinnati. She graduated from Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse in 1943 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree (Cum Laude) from Edgecliff College in 1971, majoring in art. She learned weaving over 45 years ago at the Cincinnati Art Museum under Hazel Walters Keethler and has been commissioned to weave hangings, tapestries, and liturgical textiles for several area corporations and churches (Church of the Redeemer and the Marjorie P. Lee Retirement Community Chapel in Hyde Park). Other commissions included Senco Products in Newtown, Mercy Hospital (Clermont) and Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati as well as in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Florida. She was a founding partner of Peach Mountain Studio, a weaving, spinning and knitting shop in Madeira, and taught textile arts for 21 years at Edgecliff College. Jeanette was President of the Weaver's Guild of Greater Cincinnati from 1959-61.

Jeanette and Dr. Bruce MacMillan originally lived at 609 Amherst from 1957-1972, where they raised two sons, John and Gregg. In 1972, Jeanette and Bruce moved to Clifton to be closer to the medical facilities. After Bruce's death in 1985, Jeanette was drawn back to Terrace Park and purchased the house on Oxford. She met her next door neighbor, Carl Pruiss, at a neighborhood Christmas Party and they were married in March of 1987.

Although Jeanette retired from commission work in 2001, she continues to exercise her creativity. Jeanette and Carl share an interest in woodcarving and attend weekly classes at the Sycamore Senior Center. To further their carving skills, they also travel to West Virginia to attend classes. Jeanette has also created numerous quilts for her family and is currently designing and creating quilted wall hangings.

Jeanette and Carl were instrumental in the building survey project. In order to keep a historical record of the buildings in the Village, they took over 800 photographs of all the buildings in Terrace Park. The photographs can be seen on the survey website (www.tpsurvey.org). The originals are on file at the TPHS office at St. Thomas Church. The office is open on Thursdays between the hours of 1:00-4:00 P.M.



Jeanette standing next to one of her tapestries at the Marjorie P. Lee Retirement Community Chapel.