

Tracker

Tracking our Past and Present for the Future

Volume 7, Number 2

Spring 2008

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Did You Know?

Did you know that there were no houses built in Terrace Park during 1943, 1944 and 1945? Harry J. Mohlman, Secretary of the Cincinnati Real Estate Board, put together a chart of homes built in the Cincinnati area from 1938-1950. Terrace Park shows none from 1943-1945. In fact, very few houses were built in those years all over Cincinnati. Wyoming seems to have been the exception since 17 were built there in 1943, 28 in 1944 and 25 in 1945. At this point I can guess why this was true but I'd be glad if someone knows the real reason they'd let me know. Only two other houses were built in the whole incorporated Cincinnati area in 1944: one in Cleves and one in Woodlawn. In both 1943 and 1945, 17 houses were built in Mariemont, but none in 1944. Indian Hill had one built in 1943, none in 1944 and three in 1945. Obviously, the reason for this was the shortage of materials during and right after the Second World War. Louis and Grace Seigel moved to Terrace Park in 1943 but weren't able to build their home at 615 Home Avenue until more materials were available in 1948/9. They lived on Floral while Terrace Park builder Hume Corwin built their house. John and Clara Jordan were only able to move to 501 Miami Avenue in 1943 because he had a defense contract, which gave him a B gas permit so he was able to drive to Terrace Park.

Did you know that there are at least 30 subdivisions that make up Terrace Park? The earliest three really are what's left of larger land divisions, some of which have been taken over by later subdivisions. Those three are Camden City (1857), Ann Moore Estate (1874) and Thomas R. Biggs (1882). Once it looked as if some sort of town or village was going to be established, several subdivisions were laid out between 1886 and 1892. They were platted by George Washington Corey (1886), John Pattison and John B. Iuen (1886), Chauncey R. Stuntz (1892) and four by James W. Sibley (1886, 1890, and two in 1891). Corey laid out two streets: Terrace and Park. Park was developed but Terrace never was until it became Denison Lane 100 years later. Developer Rick Koehler wanted to continue the university naming of streets so he chose Denison for Denison University where his two sisters went. Pattison and Iuen took over Lots 1 and 2 of what had been Camden City. Sibley's first subdivision took over lots 3 and 4 of Camden City. Streets in both those areas use British and American university names: Cambridge, Oxford, Rugby, Harvard, Amherst and Yale. The section of Yale Avenue south of Amherst was originally called Park but that was too easy to confuse with Corey's Park so it became the lower end of Yale. Sibley used one more university or college name between his second and third subdivisions. Marietta College (1788), located in the oldest settlement in the Northwest Territory, is one of America's 37 Revolutionary-era colleges. Otherwise he chose Stanton, Myrtle, Floral and Lexington. Earlier Elm Avenue north of the railroad was called Liberty Street. South of the railroad it was Newtown Road because it went to Newtown across the Little Miami River. The Evelands bought land from Corey to establish their lumber yard in 1914 where Denison Lane is now. By 1930 they bought land for their first subdivision at the end of Park and Cornell (another college street name). In 1940 the Evelands bought land that had been part of Thomas Biggs Gravelotte for their second subdivision. This included Franklin, Princeton, Poplar and part of Stanton and Elm. Building in both these subdivisions was slow due to World War II. All the other subdivisions were established between 1951 and 1998. Many of their names are those of the developer. Others are taken from what was there before: Circus Place, Robinwood and Baysore Meadows. Others are easy to guess. Melissa was named for Tim and Barbara Harth's daughter, as were streets earlier in Cincinnati named for Tim and his sister. Kris and Kent Circles were named for the Maerki children. The latest subdivision is Orchard Hill (1998), earlier just part of Columbia Township.

ORAL HISTORIES BRING MEMORIES TO LIFE

By Susan Abernethy Frank

I e-mailed Mike Grace in January asking him if he would consent to an interview for the Terrace Park Historical Society. Mike was born in Terrace Park in 1942, lived here until 1955, and currently makes Centerville, Indiana, his home. He has many fond memories of his years in Terrace Park. Many of you may remember the Grace family: parents Dale and Eloise and children Sally, Mike and Kathy. Even if you did not know the family, you might find Mike's oral history to be of interest. Perhaps you know the Grace home, 415 Elm (built about 1890) right across from the Community House. Mike has great stories about this home as well as other village landmarks, including the dump and log cabin and neighbors, like "Mom" and "Pop" Thomas. If his oral history had not been taken, much of what Mike said could have been lost as an important part of everyday life in Terrace Park.



Historical societies by nature are concerned with the collection and preservation of historical information/items. Oral histories are an important segment of this preservation. Without people and their memories/recollections, history becomes bland and incomplete. Recording oral histories in a timely manner is absolutely imperative because opportunities to interview older people lessen with time. Some uses of the oral history material would be in research and/or in a general meeting presentation. The material is also very interesting and will be cataloged so a family, a person, their years in Terrace Park, their lives in general, certain landmarks referred to in the interview, and other interesting points can be researched. The collected information will always be available for anyone's use. Over 40 interviews have been completed, most of which have been or are in the process of being transcribed. Many more are scheduled.

One of my most recent histories was on Carol Fahrnbach and her husband Lou who owned the Terrace Market from 1973-1978. Carol's interview brought back special memories of the Market and all it meant to residents. The Fahrnbachs moved to Terrace Park with their children Mark and Wendy in 1974. They had to sell the Market in 1978 due to Lou's health problems. Excerpts from Carol's interview, as well as many others, will be in future issues of *Tracker*.



Other completed interviews include: Bill Krummert, Virginia Marquett, Pat and Bob Henley, Ann Gatch, Eleanor Gallagher, Mary Cone, Marie Stoecklin, Marcia McCalla, Eliza Eveland Brown, Mary Ann Kipp Flynn Sidenstick, Elizabeth "Libby" Clancey, Helen Christopher Barnett, Mary Chapman, Pat Fehl, Jane Hassan Earls, Mary Annett, Ralph "R. J." Vilardo.

If YOU would like to do some interviewing or have a suggestion of who to interview please notify me....513-607-3066. If you want to read one of the transcripts, visit our Archives on Thursdays between 1:00-4:00 PM or call 248-1777.

SAVE THIS DATE

Treasures of Terrace Park

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

3:30 P.M. REFRESHMENTS

4:00 P.M. PROGRAM

TERRACE PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING

Speakers

Laurie Baird

Jack Brown

Bobby Scott

Susan Abernethy Frank

This program is sponsored by the Terrace Park Historical Society and is free and open to the public

Circus House Correction

Recently there have been two very nice articles in the Cincinnati Enquirer about Terrace Park houses. The first one (about John and Linda Rockaway's home) appeared as the cover story in the Home Style section on March 8. "House history" was added in a special column and the source cited was www.tpsurvey.org. Unfortunately "tpsurvey" was evidently not consulted for the article the following Saturday on what has become known as "The John Robinson Circus House". That house was not "built as the winter headquarters for the John Robinson Circus" as the Enquirer article stated. It was built sometime before 1869, perhaps as early as 1854, when Thomas R. Biggs got the land from his father Zaccheus Biggs. In 1885 it was sold to local developer James W. Sibley, who sold it the next year to Caroline Robinson, wife of John F. Robinson. It was then that the home and surrounding area became famous as the winter quarters for the Robinson Circus. Look for an article on this home in the April issue of *Traditional Home Magazine*.

People Corner

Pat Henley

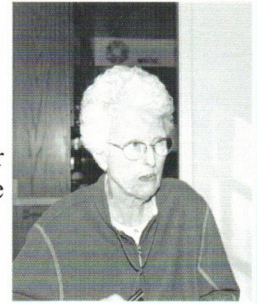
By Carol C. Cole from the Archives

I credit Pat Henley with the fact that we have both a building survey and, growing out of that, the Terrace Park Historical Society. It was Pat who had the idea in April 1995 that the Terrace Park Woman's Club should "start a project of collecting pictures of Terrace Park homes and recording their history" (see the Winter 2006 edition of the *Tracker*). Now she has made another great suggestion: that we collect pictures of people's gardens. Those can be sent to our Historical Society headquarters (PO Box 3). As many of you know, gardening is Pat's personal passion and especially day lilies. No doubt Pat's garden should be among the first ones included in the collection.

Pat and her husband, Bob, bought land and had their Pease house built at 327 Rugby in 1952. They knew no one when they moved here but soon got to know their neighbors and then became involved in community affairs. The Terrace Park Players were a very active group and boasted a full orchestra for full-scale original musicals. Pat played violin while Bob held forth on the drums.

Pat had always been interested in the League of Women Voters. At the time Terrace Park had a unit, as did Cincinnati, and Pat was active in both. When Louise and Tom Bush got the *Village Views* started in 1969, Pat worked in a variety of capacities including editor, make-up and also writing articles, including the one on the monthly Village Council meetings. Thus Pat was our obvious choice to get the *Tracker* started for the Terrace Park Historical Society. When Jan Decker moved away, Mayor Frank Corbin asked Pat to finish Jan's term on Council. When the term ran out Pat ran for Council and continued on for another term. Her main responsibility was Buildings and Grounds where Pat remembers fondly working with the service employees. Together they cleaned up various parts of the village, did lots of mowing where it had never been done before and continued Jan's work on the Village Green. Pat hired landscape architect Dick Amann to make a new design for the Green including a new stone memorial around the flagpole and a variety of other plantings. Pat's responsibility moved to streets when Ray Cadwallader became mayor. There she enjoyed particularly working with DUIs, getting them working mainly on cutting brush. One time she had them paint the Community House! Pat gives full credit to Bob for his help in all she does but she was the hands on person every day.

Then they got involved in "saving the Wilderness area", which had by then been vacated by the Miami Grove residents. A lot of clearing was done but some areas were left wild as havens for wild birds and animals. In the tornado of 1969, Terrace Park lost hundreds of trees so a tree-planting program was started and trees became one of Pat's responsibilities. When she came off Council, Mayor Cadwallader appointed her Street Commissioner where she had wonderful help from former mayor Carl Lindell. When cable came to Terrace Park, Pat was hired to supervise the installers so they didn't do too much damage to our valuable trees. In reviewing some of Pat's involvement in Terrace Park affairs, one thing becomes very obvious—Pat has always enjoyed working with people and has done Terrace Park a great service by her involvement.



Scripps Howard Foundation Grant

We are pleased to announce receipt of a \$1000 volunteer grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation. Board member Sue Porter was instrumental in securing this funding. The grant is to be used toward the production expenses to present TPHS research findings in storybooks and videos for elementary classroom use. The Foundation further congratulated Terrace Park for being the beneficiary of the Society's commitment to community service.

TPHS Wish List

The TPHS is searching for an individual to spend 2 or 3 hours per week typing oral histories from tapes. If you are interested, please contact Kay or Leslie at 248-1777.

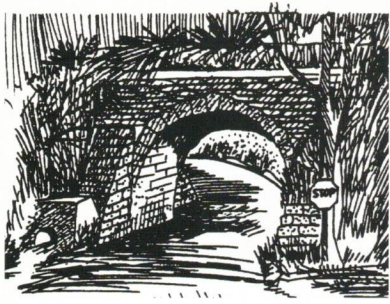


All Ages Attracted To TPHS Program

More than 70 local residents and interested others attended the Terrace Park Historical Society's winter program on February 24 that featured John Cimarosti, an authority of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806.

Cimarosti regaled the crowd with tales from his historical re-enactment adventure with the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Missouri, a non-profit group of volunteers that takes its name from the designation Thomas Jefferson gave the original band.

Dressed as Pvt. John Colter, one of the 45 recruits who helped Meriwether Lewis and William Clark forge the westward route to the Pacific Ocean, Cimarosti demonstrated the handling of a firelock, the versatility of the keelboat and pirogues, the use of canvas for shelter, and an array of equipment he'd used and uniforms he'd worn on the trip.



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www.tpsurvey.org

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TREASURES OF TERRACE PARK

The Terrace Park Historical Society's next public program, "Treasures of Terrace Park", is a wonderful opportunity for people to discover little-known facts that make certain buildings and public spaces so valuable to our community. It will be held Sunday, April 27, at the Community Building. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 P.M. and the program will follow at 4:00 P.M.

The four speakers and their topics are:

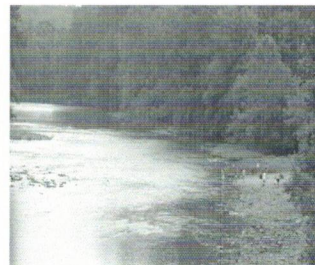
Jack Brown, Village Green
Laurie Baird, Log Cabin
Bobby Scott, Little Miami River
Susan Abernethy Frank, St. Thomas Church



Village Green



Log Cabin



Little Miami River



St. Thomas Church