



Tracker

Tracking our Past and Present for the Future

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Summer 2008

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Did You Know?

Following on the Spring 2008 edition of *Tracker* information on Terrace Park street names, here's one more. Hume Corwin built his home at 733 Indian Hill Road. He also owned much of the land behind his home, which included the land that became Marian Lane, named for his only child, Marian.

Evidently there's nothing new about the idea of having a median strip on Wooster Pike. However, according to a newspaper article in 1963, Ohio wasn't ready for it yet. I guess they've reconsidered.

"Council has registered a complaint with the Ohio State Department of Highways as a result of the state's decision against the village's request for a median strip along the two mile stretch between the Newtown Bridge and Terrace Park.

A letter sent to the State Highway Department says, in part, that it appears rather a paradox to claim that a new limited access highway (the Columbia Parkway extension) rated at 50 MPH needs lights and a divider, while an older road (Wooster Pike) with a history of tragic accidental deaths (also rated at 50 MPH) does not.

The letter further states that if the new highway didn't have these features and if speed were reduced on these two miles of Wooster Pike to 40 MPH, it would be easier for the residents of Terrace Park to understand the state's position.

For the state to claim 'we do not feel that it is economically justifiable to construct a narrow median' after making this expenditure in Fairfax on a newer, safer and lighted highway is an untenable position the letter concludes.

Council is requesting that the area from Terrace Park to the Newtown Bridge be resurveyed for the possibility of installing a median divider strip. They also pointed out that the portion of road in question does not have any intersections or business access."

Let's hope we now get both the landscaped median strip within Terrace Park and eventually the sidewalks that have been requested.

I was unloading a crate of library books from the car when an older gentleman appeared on my driveway. After saying hello, he said, "My dad built this house".

He and his wife were in town for a reunion. As we walked through the house, he pointed out inventive features his father had included and told my surprised first-grader that, as a boy, he had gone to the same school he attends now.

"Knowing a bit more of the history of the house in which we live, and the heart that had gone into its making, made me care more for it in the present."

Patti Normile gave me this from a calendar she has. It certainly holds true for homes in Terrace Park. In fact, several Terrace Park residents have had this same experience, through which we've learned valuable information both about the house itself and the people who lived there earlier. Our House Plaque Program, we hope, will make people appreciate and learn more about the older homes in Terrace Park.

"The present is so much richer when we understand and honor the past."

(continued on inside back cover)

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR HISTORICAL HOME TOUR

*Sunday, Sept. 21
1-5 P.M.
Terrace Park Historical Society's
Home Tour*

Please mark your calendar on September 21 for the Terrace Park Historical Society's first-ever house tour.

Owners of six of this community's historic homes have graciously agreed to welcome you inside for a look at what they've done - and are doing - to preserve history while adapting space for today's lifestyle. TPHS thanks our hosts and hostesses at these locations:

- ▶ *Cowan home, 747 Park Avenue*
- ▶ *Lewis home, 429 Elm Avenue*
- ▶ *McCarthy home, 307 Oxford Avenue*
- ▶ *Mills home, 300 Rugby Avenue*
- ▶ *Sawyer home, 615 Amherst Avenue*
- ▶ *Wilson-Werdmann home, 6 Kris Circle*

Tourists will want to stop by the Community Building, too. Local historian Carol C. Cole will be available to discuss a display that features not only the six tour sites but also "Then and Now" pictures of the homes featured in the scrapbook explained on the bottom of the next page. Lee Cole will be there to share information about the Village building survey. In addition, there will be TPHS membership information; Terrace Park note cards and other items for sale; order forms for the Society's Historic Homes Plaque Program, and refreshments.

It is suggested tourists stroll from house-to-house or travel via bicycle or some other means to avoid parking congestion. This will make parking spots available to tourists who are less mobile. Tractor-drawn hay wagons will offer tourists the opportunity to "hop on-hop off" as they stop at the open houses along the tour route.

Tickets purchased in advance will be \$15 each and will include entry into prize drawings for gift baskets. Tickets will be sold on tour day at the Community Building and will be \$20 each without entry into the drawings.

TPHS members are asked to volunteer to help with the tour. By donating two hours of service that day, each volunteer may purchase a ticket for just \$5. To volunteer call Sandra Wittman-Shell at 831-6090.



McCarthy Home
307 Oxford Avenue



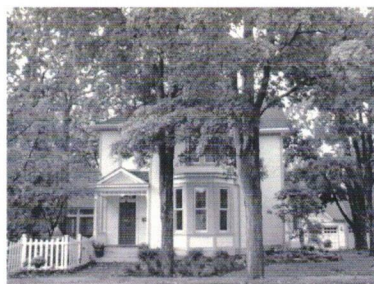
Wilson-Werdmann Home
6 Kris Circle



Lewis Home
429 Elm Avenue



Mills Home
300 Rugby Avenue



Sawyer Home
615 Amherst Avenue



Cowan Home
747 Park Avenue

People Corner

Charles C. Wiebold, his son Bill, And Wiebold Studio, Inc. Fine Art Restoration and Conservation Established 1945

By Carol C. Cole from the Archives

Again I'm going to borrow from articles in the Terrace Park Historical Society archives. One was found in Stan Miller's 1973 scrapbook, written by Jeanne Sanker for the Village Views. The other, by Noel Julnes-Dehner, was in the August 2001 issue of Village Views, an interview with Charley's son Bill.

Jeanne writes, "It's hard to believe that what is now a nationally acclaimed art conservation and restoration studio began as a repair shop in the basement of Charles and Biddie Wiebold's home on Cambridge. Even as a child, Charley had liked art and 'fixing things'. He wanted to continue his study of art after high school, but his father felt that the art field was insecure and insisted that Charles study business instead.

During World War II, when Charley was employed as a superintendent of personnel in a steel plant, he used his artistic talents as an 'escape', and friends welcomed his creations of art structures remade into lamps. But his repair work on their china and bisque was so fine that one could not detect where the work had been done. Work of his abilities spread to the Loring-Andrews firm who hired him to do some repair work, and his future in the field was established.

Soon requests were coming from far and near. 'Not without very hard work, though,' comments Mr. Wiebold, who remembers staying up until 3 or 4 in the morning to complete some jobs, while his children were asleep, but his dog stayed at his side. In all those early years, though, neither children nor dog ever broke one piece of precious property. Soon the children were taking a real interest in the work, and now son, Bill, an art student at University of Cincinnati, is learning all phases of the business and his father is at last taking a little time off."

Charley's son Bill describes it a little differently. "My father sold life insurance. He hated paperwork, so when he came home at night he fixed things in his workshop. Then during World War II, lamp manufacturers converted their plants to make war implements. Interior decorators couldn't buy lamps, only the parts. My father figured out how to drill into vases and turn them into lamps. After the war, the decorators would buy vases that were broken or a figurine with a broken hand, and he figured out how to repair them. He would stay up every night until 3 a. m. and work on the weekends, until he quit the insurance business.

There was no place to go to be taught this work. There was a company in Philadelphia and one in Chicago, but they were the only other ones in the country. In 1960, Wiebold joined the organization that had just been formed for museum restorers. We shared techniques, but a lot of it was trial and error.

My uncle, grandfather, mother, sister Claire, and I worked for my father. I started when I was 13."

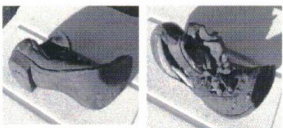
In 1966, they bought the building at 413 Terrace Place where they are still located. They've added onto it for more room. This describes how they got started. For information on what they actually do there, go to the Terrace Park Historical Society archives and read more articles on what has become the science of conservation. How fortunate we are to have this internationally known conservation lab right here in Terrace Park!



Did You Know?

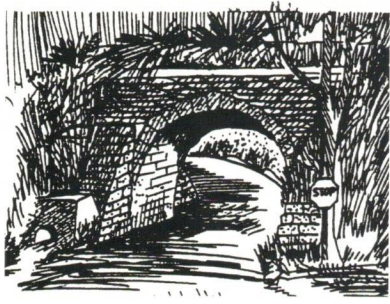
(continued from front page)

Workmen at Chile Rodger's 607 Wooster Pike home recently found two shoes that had been hidden between walls in her home probably when it was built. They are an unmatched pair of children's very worn shoes and were probably put there for good luck. That was evidently a common practice in earlier days. The shoes have now been donated to the Terrace Park Historical Society where good care will be taken of them.



Since then another good luck shoe has been found at 429 Elm Avenue, current home of the Lewis family.

If you have any information about anything to do with Terrace Park or any pictures or other Terrace Park memorabilia, we'd love to see it. You can donate artifacts, floor plans, photos, old newspaper articles and more. We can make copies and get originals back to you. A wonderful scrapbook of pictures of Terrace Park homes from 1910-1920 has recently been found and is now in the archives. The pictures tell us who the owner was when the picture was taken, most are dated, and we've been able to establish the address for most. These images are on tpsurvey.org and will be displayed in the Community House on the day of our Home Tour. You won't want to miss seeing them!



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Tracking our Past and Present for the Future

Historic Homes Plaque Program Announced

The Terrace Park Historical Society is pleased to announce the initiation of an Historic Homes Plaque Program to honor historic homes within the Park. The program will be introduced to the Village at the annual Labor Day festivities on the Village Green by Society President, Laurie Baird. This program, which has been in the planning stages for more than a year, makes important and publicly visible the pride we all share in our Village's rich architectural heritage. Plaques will be offered on a voluntary community-wide basis to those property owners whose homes were built in 1920 or before. In addition to those homes, plaques will also be offered to property owners whose homes are Gunnison or Sears homes or built in the International style, no matter their age.

After considerable investigation and review of other communities' plaque designs and programs, the Historical Society decided to have the plaques cast in bronze in a unique round crested shape. The text on the plaques will include the date the house was built, either accurately or circa, and for some the name of the original homeowner or important individual associated with the house. The plaques will be sold to property owners at cost. The Historical Society is not looking at this program as a money making program, but rather is hopeful that as many homeowners as possible will participate.

Also included on the plaque will be the Terrace Park Historical Society logo that was recently updated and redesigned by talented local designer, Tim Fening. The Society is greatly indebted to Tim who worked tirelessly on this project while also in the midst of starting his own company, Cause Agency, a company dedicated to communicating the linking of corporate and cause for the benefit of both (www.causeagency.com).

The Society anticipates an initial offering of over 115 qualifying plaque application packages. These packages will be available at the Terrace Park Historical Society table at the Labor Day Celebration. Any packages not picked up there will be delivered to homeowners at a later time. Please call Lorrie Hill, Plaque Program Committee Chairman, for further information on this exciting new program.