

TRACKER



FEATURED TERRACE PARK ARTIST - JOHN MAGGARD

By Sumitra Gopal

Most people in Terrace Park would know John Maggard. He is the well-respected Chief of the Terrace Park Emergency Medical Services (EMS). But did you know that he is also a highly accomplished artist?! I met John at his warm and welcoming home for a chat to know more about him and his art form. Needless to say, I came back enchanted and in awe of his skills. What impressed me even more was his humility that spoke more than words. *(Continued Page 3)*



Phone: (513) 418-1480

Mail: P.O. Box 3
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

Email: tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website: tphistoricalsociety.org

Location:
St. Thomas Church
100 Miami Avenue
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

Lower level from the Terrace Place entrance

Visiting Hours:
Currently open by appointment only - please call (513) 418-1480

Officers: President: Laurie Baird
Treasurer: Marcia Moyer

Trustees:
Susan Rodgers
Sylvia Stirsman
Suzi Ricketts
Ogle Annett
Suzie Gray

Trustees Emeritus:
Susan Abernethy Frank
Betsy Holloway

Legal Advisor:
Steve Holmes

Tracker Editor:
Susan Rodgers

LIVING HISTORY

By Sumitra Gopal



(The Stutenroth Family: Charles Edward Stutenroth IV "Chuck", Melanie Newsome Stutenroth, Charles Edward Stutenroth V "Chase", Spencer Montgomery Stutenroth, William Newsome Stutenroth)

Living in Terrace Park is like being on the set of "The Truman Show". There are just so many things that are perfect! One of the things I find perfect is the preservation of historic homes and the integration of new ones with these timeless beauties. On my walks, I always look out for the Historical Society plaque that was made available to homes over 100 years old. I pause, admire and often click a photo of such homes for they have a story to tell. I was wondering how I could unearth and share these stories with a wider audience until I came across an old album in our archives with photographs taken in the early 1900s.

Conceiving and working on this project, comparing the black and white of an era gone by with the colour and vibrancy of today has been a hugely rewarding experience. I plan to write about one such home in every issue to cherish our mutual love for the timeless legacy of Terrace Park! *(Continued Page 4)*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

How do we know it's summer in Terrace Park? Many ways...lemonade stands, children on their way to the pool with towels around their shoulders, summer camps around Stanton Field, our baseball fields are all groomed.....and this year....the sound and presence of the CICADAS!

The Terrace Park Historical Society has had a wonderful transition into summer and the (hopeful) opening of our offices. We are under the church's directives and at this time they are still very cautious about opening fully. We will keep the community posted on our office hours. We are still working on our office renovations and are very excited to share with the public very soon!

We would like to congratulate our 2021 Winners of the Terrace Park Historical Society Scholarships: Angelina Dennerell and Sadie Koehler. Sadie will be attending Miami University this fall majoring in primary education and Angelina will be attending The Ohio State University to study nursing. We are so proud of our Terrace Park youth!

We would also like to welcome our new board member, Suzie Gray and our new volunteer, Phil Forbes. Thank you Suzie and Phil!

Enjoy the summer, make memories and we look forward to a program as soon as we open fully. We will keep you posted!

Laurie Baird
President, Terrace Park Historical Society

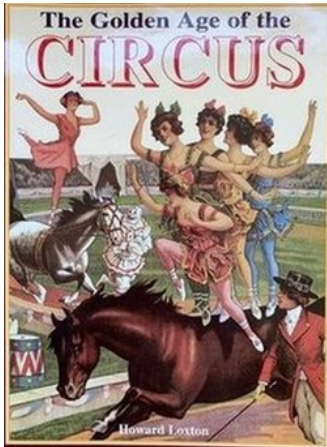
ANNUAL THIRD GRADE HISTORY WALK



The Terrace Park Historical Society has a tradition of hosting an end-of-year history walk for the third grade classes at TP Elementary School. Not only is this a good way for the kids to enjoy being outside on a spring day, but they are introduced to the rich past of their community.

This year, local historian and Village Views editor, Steve Early, lead the group on a visit to the Miami Grove Nature Preserve. He talked about the many people who once lived on the banks of the Little Miami River and how their houses were built on stilts because of the frequent floods. Now, the land is overgrown and all that remains of the once busy community is a stone chimney, but some of the original residents are still in the area and remember what life was like on the river.

ROBINSON CIRCUS DONATION



When we made a request in our last newsletter for a 'Circus Expert', we were in for a big surprise. Our call was answered by two incredibly knowledgeable Robinson Circus fans - John and Paulette Luneborg. John Luneborg is a direct descendant of the John Robinson family - his great-grandfather was John G. Robinson III, the last owner of the Robinson Circus and the troupe of elephants that were once a common sight in Terrace Park.

For many years, the Luneborgs have collected an archive of original artwork, documents and photographs relating to the Robinson Circus and the Robinson family. Not only have they offered to share their research and family history with us, but they have donated their collection of Circus materials to our Society. We are currently in the process of creating a mini-museum to display these amazing items - stay tuned for updates on our progress!

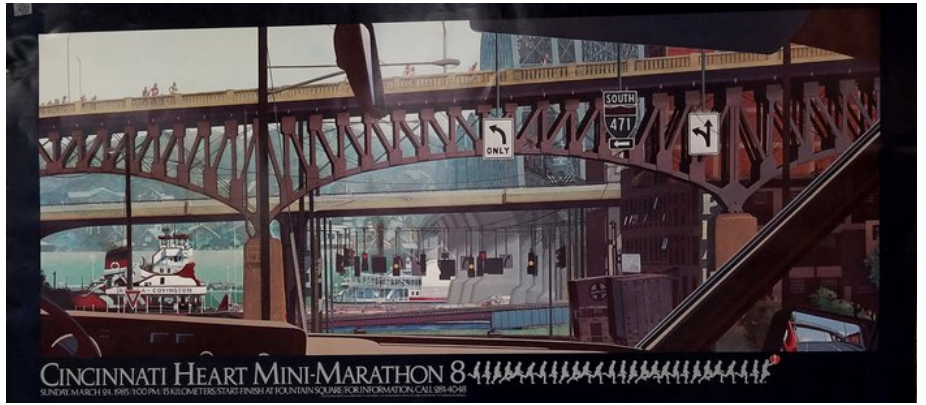
From all of us at the Terrace Park Historical Society - Thank you John and Paulette!



FEATURED TERRACE PARK ARTIST - JOHN MAGGARD, CONTINUED

Although semi-retired, John is a graphic artist by training and profession. He traces his interest in art to his doodling days in school. At that time he didn't really know where he was headed. Since his father was a professor at Miami University, John enrolled in the art program at the University. He made the choice not knowing much about illustration as it was a relatively new field and fine arts was its more glorious cousin.

John graduated in 1976 and took a job as a graphic designer with National Cash Register in Dayton. The job did not offer the kind of creativity he was looking for and he moved to Steinau-Fisher, a studio in Walnut Hills. The studio had landed a contract with Kenner Toys and was working on packaging designs for the new feature film, Star Wars.



John worked on some of the very first designs for Star Wars - package design & illustration, including the first toy character stand and back card and a wildly-inaccurate depiction of the Death Star. The mega success of Star Wars was not expected and John didn't keep any of the initial drawings, artwork or first prints with him. He told me jokingly "I am buying the original toys from resellers on eBay now."

Somewhere around late 70s or early 80s, John and 6 other friends left another illustration studio in Dayton, OH to become independent artists. There has been no

looking back since. John has worked on numerous projects in his illustrious career. His muse has however been trains, stations and the whole ecosystem around them. As a child he loved the Oxford train that ran through the city - it kindled his imagination.

As a working professional, John moved into his office at the Cincinnati Museum Center, which overlooked the rail yards behind the former Cincinnati Union Terminal. This allowed him to observe trains closely and create intricate life-like scapes of trains. His illustrations almost look like high quality prints - such is the finesse of his work.



If you know John or can get in touch with him, you may want to ask him to show you some of his work. You would likely end up loving trains too...just like I did!

To see more of John's work, there are links from our website, tphistoricalsociety.org, or visit:

<https://scotthull.com/johnmaggard> and

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEkl6SSO7PrUPS2qgRtpqtg>



(Photo taken in 1912, Original Owner - Robert E. Kreimer)

The first home in this series is 310 Harvard Avenue, home of Melanie and Chuck Stutenroth. This beautiful family embodies every virtue a Terrace Park resident must have and I could not work around my bias of featuring my lovely neighbours first in this series.

“You have to love an old house to make it your home”.

Melanie and Chuck moved from Charlotte, North Carolina in 1999 with their sons, Chase and Spencer. Like most of us, they fell in love with Terrace Park and moved into their first home at the intersection of Marietta Avenue and Yale Avenue.

With the birth of their third son, William, the house on Marietta was becoming too small for the family. A builder friend was looking to buy two adjacent plots, 310 and 306 on Harvard Avenue, with a plan to tear them down and build newer homes. The house at 310 Harvard, built in 1910, appealed to Chuck for its potential, character, and the large

lot. He was convinced that this was the perfect property for his family.

Melanie, unconvinced, agreed to the purchase (mainly for the large lot and screened porch) and trusted Chuck’s judgement. Chuck and Melanie made an offer to Norma and Michael Campo, the current owners who had raised their two children in the home. The offer was accepted and in 2005 the home at 310 Harvard began a new chapter. The Stutenroths planned renovations but were committed to maintaining the true character and charm of the home. They have stayed true to their commitment and have taken good care of this treasure.

The initial house needed some modernisation as well as some expansion. The Stutenroths hired an architect and gave a very clear objective: renovations to update the home yet retain the character. Over the past 15 years the house has seen many big and small renovations. A new wing, an expanded basement, a renovated kitchen, the front facade was enhanced and a new patio was created. New windows were purchased to match the original windows that remain on the front of the home. The old porch exists much as it did in 1910. The Stutenroths even have a picture of the original owners of 310 Harvard standing on the porch steps.

The back patio and yard have evolved as the Stutenroth boys have grown and has endured many birthday parties, night games with friends, playtime with pets, and soccer, football, lacrosse and basketball training. The old “buggy barn” was eventually replaced by a modern 3-car garage. A fire-pit addition became the focal point of family social gatherings. The

landscaping of the large yard has become a labor of love over the years for Chuck and Melanie evolving each growing season into new beds. More recently, a new garden was designed by Chuck’s mother who is a Master Gardener, and was planted by mother and son together.



(2021)



Durrell family, 1915

The Stutenroths bought an old home, modernised it and made it their own, creating their own history at 310 Harvard. Here, they have raised their 3 boys, 3 dogs and 3 cats and have made memories that will last them a lifetime. When I asked them if they had any one place or memory of their home they love the most both Melanie and Chuck had their favourites. The screen porch is Melanie's sanctuary. She spends time there doing yoga, drinking coffee or wine, working remotely, catching up with friends, having dinner with her family, having a tough conversation with the boys, or just doing nothing. This is her "Zen Space". For Chuck, Christmas is always special at 310 Harvard. One of his favorite traditions is placing a live tree in the front foyer of their home which gives a 360 degree view of the beautiful decorations. As the home is on the horse-drawn carriage route for Luminaria, the Stutenroth's tree and home can be enjoyed by the holiday revelers as they go by.

For the Stutenroths, this historic home has provided a rich backdrop for their lives together and their time in Terrace Park. As Chuck reflects "we are only stewards of this old home, raising our family and living our lives within its walls, until we pass it on one day to the next Terrace Park family."

The walls of every old home resonate the lives of those who have lived there. If you would like to share your unique (his)story, please contact Sumitra @ sumitragopal@gmail.com and give us a chance to share a piece of your home's joy and pride with fellow residents of Terrace Park.

THE STORY OF 'PIT', THE ELEPHANT

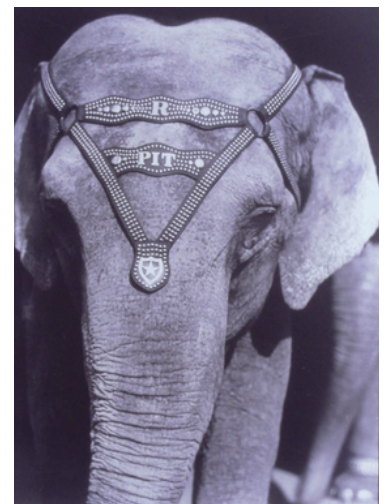


Did you know that one of the last of the Robinson Elephants, 'Pit', is buried in Dillon, Montana?

We were recently made aware of this by Dillon resident, Jack Kirkley. As a retired biology professor, Jack had wanted to dig up the elephant skeleton to make a museum display. Although his plan was met with opposition, Jack became intrigued by the circumstances around Pit's sad fate and began to research the story.

It turns out that when the Robinson Circus was sold in 1916, John Robinson III kept four of his elephants, Tillie, Clara, Pit and Tony and continued to tour with them. After John's death and the deaths of Tillie, Clara and Tony, the last remaining elephant, Pit, was given to the Cole Brothers Circus in 1942. That is how she ended up in Dillon, Montana in 1943.

As the story goes, there was a thunderstorm during a performance and the elephants, who were outside the tents, were struck by lightning. All of them recovered except for Pit, who was buried on the spot as she was too large to move.



Jack recently visited our archives to learn more about Pit and the other Robinson Elephants. He shared his research with us along with a slideshow that he created for the town of Dillon. To view Jack's slideshow, visit our website - tphistoricalsociety.org. You can also find this story at <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/4495>

The plaque over Pit's grave can even be found on Google Maps!

How to Identify an Elephant

This image was provided to us by our recent visitor, Jack Kirkley (see article about 'Pit').

