

TRACKER



TERRACE PARK MUSEUM GRAND OPENING

Save the Date! Join us on Sunday, June 12, 2022 from 3pm to 5pm, for the Grand Opening of the Terrace Park Historical Society Museum.

We have been hard at work for the last year, creating a Museum that brings the many aspects of Terrace Park history to life. The Robinson Circus exhibit includes original costumes, vintage posters, programs and even a tent pole. Other exhibits showcase the Terrace Park School, early Terrace Park businesses, the Terrace Park Players, St. Thomas Church and the Police, Fire and EMS departments.

Everyone is welcome! Our location is on the lower level of St. Thomas Church, down the stairs at the Terrace Place entrance.



SAVE THE DATE - SPRING PROGRAM AT PROMONT HOUSE



We will be visiting the Milford Historical Society's Promont House on Sunday, May 22, 2022, for a social hour on the grounds and a lecture provided by one of the docents. Promont is a Victorian mansion that was built in 1865 and belonged to Ohio's 43rd governor, John M. Pattison. The house is now a museum and the home of the Milford Historical Society.

If you would like to join us for this free event, Please RSVP to (513) 248-1777 or tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com. The address is 906 Main Street, Milford, OH 45150, next door to the Copper Blue restaurant on Main Street.

Contact:

Phone: (513) 248-1777

Email: tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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

Website: tphistoricalsociety.org

Location:

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

Lower level from the Terrace Place entrance

Visiting Hours:

Thursdays from 1-4pm

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to Spring in Terrace Park!

Today I am wearing my winter coat as I write this message. Tomorrow, it's supposed to be in the 70's!! Change is in the air.... A very good thing because change is what I would like to address in this President's Message. The Terrace Park Historical Society is happy to be sending this spring newsletter "The Tracker" to all residents of Terrace Park as well as Historical Society members. Welcome everyone!

The Terrace Park Historical Society's archival room, museum and art gallery have all been renovated during the lockdown time. We are excited to announce that on June 12, we will be holding an "Open House" for all to come see our new Musuem. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to visit to see what your community's history reveals about this area many years ago.

We are always looking for new members and volunteers to come help research and integrate our findings into our records. Many levels of volunteering are available. Please feel free to contact us by emailing: tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com or calling our off ces: (513) 248-1777. Off ce hours are Thursday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy this newsletter and please come visit us soon!

Laurie Baird, President
Terrace Park Historical Society

HISTORIC BOOK

Several of our board members recently made a trip to the Village Office to view some of the historic records that are stored there. What a surprise to find the original leather-bound book of ordinances from 1893 to 1912.

Terrace Park was incorporated as a village in 1893, and the book contains the minutes of the first council meeting.

The first ordinance created the office of Solicitor, and the second levied a tax. By the time they got to the 4th and 5th, things got more interesting:



Ordinance 4: "It shall be the duty of the Marshal who shall find any animal of the horse, mule, cattle, sheep or service kind running at large within the corporation or intruding on any private lot or enclosure, to seize and cause the same to be impounded..."

Ordinance 5: "It shall be unlawful for any person to appear on the streets, avenues or an public place in a state of intoxication or drunkenness". "It shall be unlawful for any person to strike, hit, beat or assault any person in any manner with hand or fist, or with a stick, cane, boulder, weapon or article or to bite, maim or kick any other person in

the village."

The records were written in graceful longhand and are still legible today. We plan to make photocopies of each page and make them available for viewing, so that the original book can be preserved in our archives.

For more information about the early history of Terrace Park, you may want to download the book, 'Terrace Park From Unsettled Land to Incorporation' by Carol C. Cole and Esther Power, found on our website at '<https://tphistoricalsociety.com/books-about-terrace-park>'.

TERRACE PARK PLAYERS SLIDES



The Terrace Park Players was a very active community group between 1956 and the mid-80's. Sylvia Stirsman has digitized a collection of slides from some of their performances which can be viewed in our museum. The images are very clear and the costumes and sets are amazing. The collection includes images from "The Devil's Disciple", "Variety", "Vas you Effer", "Harvey", "Where's Charlie" and "Dr. Zephyr and the Lunaville Folly".

We would like to request that if any of our readers has slides, images or video of The Terrace Park Players that they would like to share with us, to please let us know, as the Players is a unique aspect of Terrace Park History that we would like to preserve.



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES AWARD

The Terrace Park Historical Society is pleased to announce the presentation of our 'Thanks for the Memories' award to board member Sylvia Stirsman, for her outstanding contributions to our organization.

Sylvia has worked tirelessly to transform our center room from a dusty storage area to an amazing museum, with professional image displays, customized books, shadow boxes, framed posters, glass display cases and hand-crafted cabinetry to showcase both our Robinson Circus and Terrace Park History collections.

Sylvia has also been responsible for a much-needed upgrade of our archives, converting our digital records from the outdated 'Past Perfect' software to the more user-friendly 'Catalogit' system, saving both money and time as the new system is much easier for our volunteers. She has copied and catalogued countless documents, photographs and artifacts, including the large collection of Robinson Circus memorabilia recently donated by the Luneborg family. In addition, she has transferred our collection of over 100 oral history tapes to digital format, where they can be enjoyed by visitors to our facilities.

To top it off, Sylvia has taken on the responsibility of making our offices available to visitors and volunteers every Thursday afternoon, except when she is traveling or on the ski slopes!

For all your hard work and dedication to the Terrace Park Historical Society,

Thank you, Sylvia!

TERRACE PARK MUSEUM (CONT.)



Terrace Park Businesses

The new museum is the result of much effort on the part of our board. Suzi Ricketts developed the original layout for the room and provided materials and design expertise. Laurie Baird created the red and white borders for the cabinets, and Sylvia Stirsman organized the collections, purchased the display panels and assembled most of the exhibits.

The exhibits feature many items that have been donated to our Society over the years, and there are many more that we hope to display. Much of the Robinson Circus exhibit was made possible by generous donations of memorabilia from the Luneborg family and Nelson family.

We are still in the process of expanding our museum and there are lots of opportunities for volunteers. If you have a suggestion for an exhibit, or an interest in a particular area of Terrace Park History, we would like to invite you to join us in our project. We are hoping to find a volunteer to manage each exhibit. Don't worry if you have no experience, we will be glad to get you started.

We also appreciate donations of Terrace Park oriented memorabilia as well as your feedback on our work and activities. To learn more and get involved, please contact us at (513) 248-1777 or thistoricalociety@gmail.com. You are also welcome to stop in and visit during our office hours - 1 pm - 4pm every Thursday in the lower level of St. Thomas Church (the old preschool);



Military Uniforms



Terrace Park School Memorabilia



Terrace Park School Teams

TREE FORT

Contributed by Marcia Moyer



In the late 1950's, a group of young teens built a fascinating tree house in Red Bird Hollow between New Street and Wooster Pike. Dave Berger, his brother Richard, Bill Wiebold (future owner of Wiebold Studios) and Maurice Hanafeld spent their free time in the woods in the area.

According to Dave, they "built tree forts, had BB gun fights, explored, camped out, swam in the creek, played ice hockey on the frozen creek in the winter, fished, swung on vines, set traps for coons, muskrats, fox and mink... which we stuffed or skinned and put the hides on the fort's walls (not PC today). In the winter we would walk the RR tracks to pick up coal that fell off the coal trains and put it in a bucket that we carried back to the fort to burn in the pot belly stove in the furnace room of that old fort."

With the stove, the three-room fort was usable year-round. There was a sleeping room with fold down bunks and the boys often slept there. The fort is long gone but these photos taken by The Enquirer in 1958 depict a time before video games and over-scheduled kids. Seems like it was wonderful.



TERRACE PARK PHOTOGRAPHS



Matt Cook holding the tail of a white squirrel in the hollow of a tree in the 400 block of Miami near Rugby. Matt Cook was police chief at the time.

If you have any photographs of Terrace Park homes, scenes or events that you would like to donate, please let us know. We are especially interested in historic images of homes, as so many of them have been remodeled over the years, and of course pictures of our white squirrels!

THE CURIOUS FATE OF CHIEF THE ELEPHANT

Contributed by Marcia Moyer



In 1880 the John Robinson Circus had a five-ton elephant named Chief. Tragedy occurred as the circus was readying to leave Charlotte, North Carolina on September 27, 1880. Some observers claimed that an angry Chief deliberately crushed John King, one of the elephant trainers, against a railroad boxcar (or a cage of angry lions) causing his death. King was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Charlotte where a funeral procession was led by other circus elephants and a five-foot monument depicting an elephant still stands.

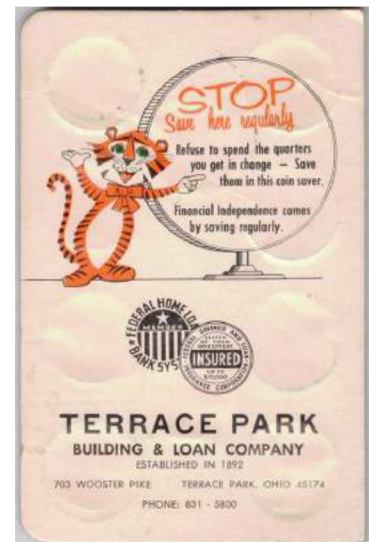
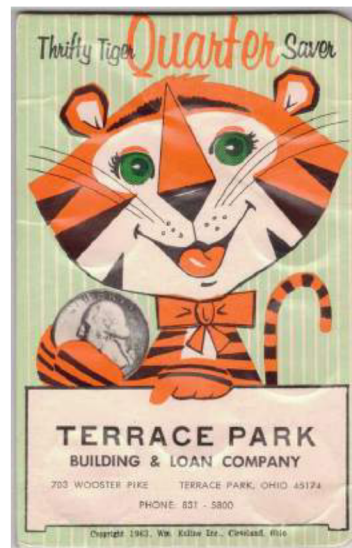
Chief was removed from the circus and sent to the Cincinnati Zoo where he apparently wreaked more mayhem. He was eventually put down and his body was taxidermied, put on wheels and for many years displayed at the University of Cincinnati. Chief's bones are now in possession of the Cincinnati Museum Center.

For more somewhat gruesome details see:
<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/north-carolina/man-crushed-by-an-elephant-nc/>
<https://magazine.uc.edu/issues/0413/oncampus.html>
<https://handeaux.tumblr.com/post/113867714532/cincinnati-kills-an-elephant-by-firing-squad-in>
<https://medium.com/murder-mystery-and-mayhem-in-the-old-north-state/chief-the-elephants-fateful-visit-to-charlotte-1880-f9fc4d3231e>
<https://gravelyspeaking.com/2015/10/05/hormonal-elephant-becomes-murderous>



VINTAGE SAVINGS BOOKLETS

These two saving booklets were donated by Noel Julnes-Dehner and provide places for children to save their dimes and quarters. They were issued by the Terrace Park Building & Loan Company in 1966 & 1963, respectively. Does anyone remember these?



SAVE THE DATE

Join us for our two upcoming events:

Sunday, June 12 - Museum Open House, 3pm - 5pm, St. Thomas Church lower level

All are welcome!

Sunday, May 23 - Program at Promont House in Milford, 906 Main Street, Milford

Admission is free, but please RSVP to tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call (513) 248-1777

STOP BY AND VISIT

You are welcome to visit us during our office hours, from 1pm - 4pm every Thursday afternoon. We are located on the lower floor of St. Thomas Church (the old preschool), accessible from the Terrace Place entrance.

We can also meet you at a different time if you are not available during our regular hours. Let us know by contacting us at tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com or calling (513) 248-1777.