## Tracking Our Past and Present for the Future

# TRACKER



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Lower level from the Terrace Place entrance

VISITING HOURS:

Thursdays from 1-4pm

OFFICERS:

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## TERRACE PARK PLAYERS EXHIBIT



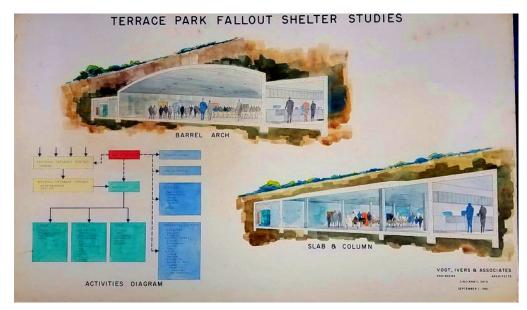
The latest addition to our Terrace Park Museum is a retrospective on the Terrace Park Players, featuring a video with slides of some of the many performances. They include scenes from "The Devil's Disciple", "Variety", "Vas you Effer", "Harvey", "Where's Charlie" and "Dr. Zephyr and The Lunaville Folly". The images are very clear and the costumes and sets are amazing.

The Terrace Park Players was a community theater ensemble, established by the PTA in 1950. The amateur players performed reviews as well as many original works of their own. Over the course of three decades, they performed 86 plays, musicals, supper clubs and concerts. It is estimated that between the years of 1958-1991, over 1,000 people, both adults and children, took part in Terrace Park Players productions. The musical talent was amazing, with musicians, directors and composers who were all part of the local community, performing original works at a professional level.

We plan to expand this exhibit and would like to reach out to the community for help in adding to our Players collection. If you would be interested in letting us make copies of your photos, video or audio from TP Players performances, please let us know. One of these

performances in particular - '200, By George', has very little documentation and we are hoping that we can locate more.

## A Grand Vision for the Community



Plans for Terrace Park Fallout Shelter

In this edition, we would like to share with you some of the items in our archived collections. The above image shows an architectural drawing of a proposed fallout shelter for Terrace Park, created in 1961, during the height of the Cold War. For the rest of the story, continue to Page 4.

#### President's Letter

As fall approaches I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped with our Grand Re-opening Celebration, held on June 12, 2022. Our facilities have undergone an amazing transformation during the past two years and we were proud to welcome the public to our new Terrace Park Museum. Highlighting our community's history is our mission!

We are open to visitors on Thursday afternoons from 1-4 pm and other times by appointment. You can contact us by emailing: tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com or calling our offices: (513) 248-1777.

Enjoy this newsletter and please come visit us soon!

Laurie Baird, President Terrace Park Historical Society

#### TERRACE PARK FLAG



Here's a trip down memory lane! This flag, which includes the symbols of the river, a bird, flowers and leaves was designed by resident Carole Parrish as a fund-raiser for the Terrace Park playground in 1989.

#### **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!**

Are you interested in history? You are welcome to join our group of volunteers. There are many ways to get involved - helping to organize community events and programs, managing items from our collections, creating displays for our museum exhibits, conducting oral history interviews, and writing for our print and online publications. We also need a volunteer to serve as secretary for our monthly meetings.

Some of our volunteers join us during our office hours on Thursday afternoons, but there are lots of opportunities to get involved from your home and on your own schedule. Find out what 'was' going on in Terrace Park!

#### ORAL HISTORIES

Our Oral History interviewers have recorded conversations with dozens of residents and former residents, collecting stories about Terrace Park throughout the years. Transcripts of these interviews are available in our archives room, along with the original tapes.

If you would like to be interviewed, or know of someone who might, please contact us.

#### Tornado of 1969



During the summer, Terrace Park experienced some severe storms that caused power outages on many streets. But before we feel too sorry for ourselves, we might want to look back a few years at some even worse situations. In both 1936 and 1969 tornadoes touched down in Terrace Park, leaving much damage in their wakes.

The Village Views described the August 9, 1969 tornado:

Immediately after the initial shock, lasting only a few minutes, citizens and officials from the village surveyed the damage. Fortunately, no one was injured, and damage to homes was amazingly light.

Many large trees were uprooted, but hundreds of huge branches and trunks were broken off and hurled great distances by the wind.

Streets were impassible, many telephone wires were torn off houses and virtually all electric services were disrupted.

One utility supervisor, observing the scores of residents and volunteers who came from outside to help, said that he had never seen a community dig into a mess with such fervor.

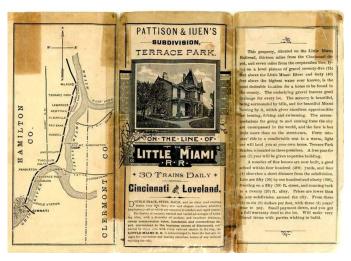
Fifteen Boy Scout troops from the Milford area also swarmed in to help.

If any of our readers remember these tornadoes and have a story to share, please let us know.



#### A VINTAGE REAL ESTATE BROCHURE

Even back in the 1880's, the value of a home in Terrace Park was apparent. The environment was a little bit different back then, with farms and cows close by and easy commutes to the city by train, but much has been retained of the original appeal.



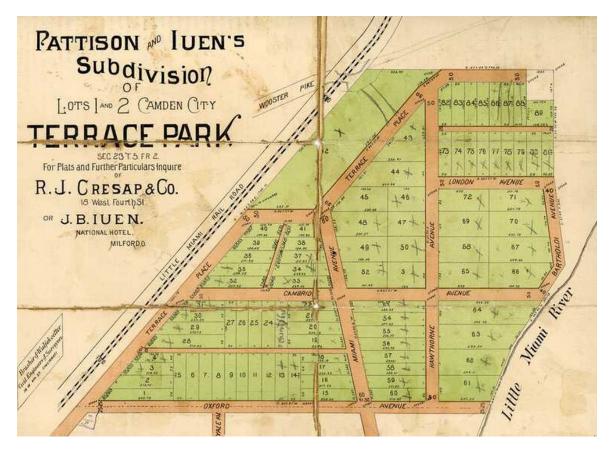
Brochure from the Pattison and Iuen Company, probably printed between 1886 and 1902

"30 Trains Daily, Double Track Steel Rails....new and elegant coaches... attentive employees, all of which are essential to comfort and rapid travel"

"For beauty and scenery, natural and varied advantages of building sites, with a diversity of surface and natural drainage, cheap commutation rates, handsome and commodious depot, convenient to the business center of Cincinnati, connected by streetcars to every railroad station in the city, The Little Miami R.R. is acknowledged to have the best advantages for convenient and healthy suburban homes of any railroad entering the city."

"The scenery is beautiful, being surrounded by hills, and the beautiful Miami flowing by it, which gives excellent opportunities for boating, fishing and swimming. The accommodations for going and coming from the city are unsurpassed in the world and the fare is but little more than on the street-cars. Forty minutes ride in a comfortable seat in a warm, light car will land you at your own home. Terrace Park Station is located on these premises. A free pass for 1 year will be giving to parties building."

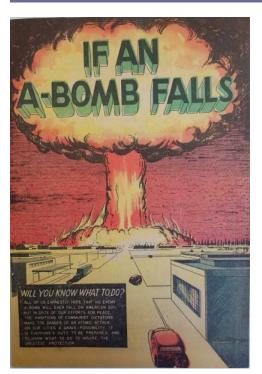
"A number of fine houses are now built, a good school within four hundred yards and four churches a short distance from the subdivision."



"Miami Avenue, running along the bank of the beautiful river of the same name, is one of the most charming drives to be found in the state. A good gravel road, fifty feet wide, shaded with fine forest trees and giving you views of miles of fine farming country with the hills in the distance covered with orchards, vineyards and woodlands. At the foot of Oxford Avenue we have a pier extending out into the river and a boathouse. A stretch of river, as smooth and as clear as a lake, of about 2 miles. Here, you can safely trust the children to learn all the sports of the water; a gravelly bottom and not so deep as to make swimming dangerous to beginners."

"Good fishing can he had and in the winter what better skating place can you wish. The soil is admirably adapted to gardening, being easily worked and with good drainage. You can make your yard a beautiful flower garden. Your children and yourself will be healthy and happy. No smoke or dirt yet as near the city in point of time as you would be at Walnut Hills or Price Hill."

#### A Grand Vision (cont.)



Imagine you are spending the next three weeks in an underground barracks with 2000 of your neighbors. And when you emerge, there may not be much left of Terrace Park.

A nuclear attack was a very real possibility confronting residents of the village in 1961. A letter to Terrace Park Citizens from the "Committee for Community Survival" from October 1961 states:

"November 7, 1961 – Election Day – may well be the most fateful day in the lives of the men, women and children of Terrace Park. On this day the voters will be called upon to make a very grave decision. We will determine whether or not this Village shall launch a program for mass survival by the building of a community blast and fallout shelter.

"This is no ordinary bond issue which we have the opportunity to accept or reject. It is born of the somber circumstances and grave possibilities of our times. It embraces the implications of life or death."

According to village civil defense director, Robert Jenkins, there were four reasons to build a community shelter: A community shelter could protect all village residents but all individuals could not afford their own shelters; costs of the shelter (\$250,000) could be covered by a 20 year bond; the shelter would provide all medical services, sanitary and survival equipment, a jail, and even a maternity ward; and residents in the shelter would have the aid of each other in any disasters.

"The shelter would be covered with three feet or more of earth. It would be 125 feet by 232 feet, providing 13 ½ feet of space for each of the village's 2000 residents. Villagers would sleep in three shifts with separate quarters for men, women and new mothers and infants. Facilities also would include a kitchen, hospital and storage area. In the event of a bomb, doors of the shelter would be closed until the initial bomb blast wave passed. Doors would then be open for about 3 minutes until fallout reached the danger level. During this period, persons surviving the blast could be brought into the shelter. "

The map on this page reveals that Midwestern cities such as Detroit, Cleveland, and CINCINNATI are just as vulnerable if not more vulnerable than our coastal cities. The one arc reveals that Cincinnati is closer to a known Russian base than New York.

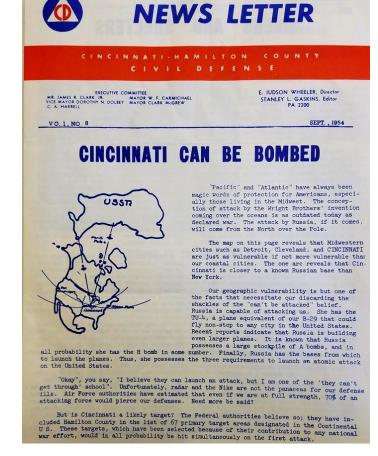
But is Cincinnati a likely target? The Federal authorities believe so; they have included Hamilton County in the list of 67 primary target areas designated in the continental U.S. These targets which have been selected because of their contribution to any national war effort would in all probability be hit simultaneously on the first attack.

The original choice of location was the Village Green, but was changed to the sanitary landfill and Marietta and Elm Avenues. Walking times from distant points in the park were to be around 10 minutes, and "driving to the shelter would take much less time and there is ample parking space."

The shelter would "replace the present Community House and give the Village the much-needed facilities for fire equipment, life squad equipment, trucks, tractor, office space and meeting space".

Although the Village voted to construct the shelter, the project was never undertaken. Detractors claimed that costs would be far higher than proposed, that the risk of a nuclear attack was overstated.

The issue was finally decided by a lawsuit and the documents are available in our archives.



#### **SCRAPBOOKS**



Stan Miller Scrapbook, 1971

Our archives include several collections of scrapbooks full of newspaper and magazine articles that reflect earlier times. One of the creators was Stan Miller, Village Clerk and amateur archivist, who kept yearly scrapbooks from 1965 through the 70's. Several residents compiled scrapbooks on the events of World War II, with handwritten notes in the margins indicating the personal impact of the times. The oldest book is the most fragile, and contains newspaper articles from the 1920's, including some of the earliest 'Ripley's Believe it or Not' cartoons.

There is also a collection of pictures, letters and flyers for the Terrace Park High School Alumni Association.

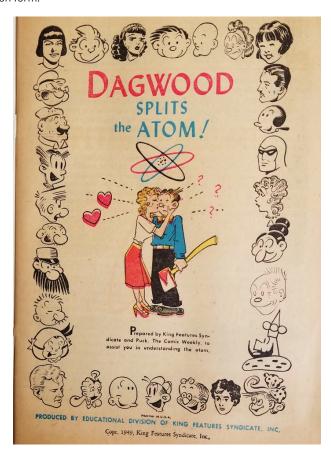
We are in the process of digitizing and preserving these artifacts, while the fragile and yellowed pages are still legible. You are welcome to visit



our archives and enjoy a glimpse into another era.

## DAGWOOD SPLITS THE ATOM

Along with the documents for the Terrace Park Fallout Shelter, we found this charming vintage comic book that explains the way atomic energy works in cartoon form.



## NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACT



At some point far in our past, someone spent a long time fashioning this stone 'celt'. A celt is a polished stone blade that can be attached to a wooden handle as an axe and was common among the Adena people who once populated much of Ohio. It was found by Jack Christopher and his 'Buckeye Club', a group of pre-teens in 1926 hear Edgewater Drive.

This is the **only** Native American artifact we have in our collections. Since Terrace Park was home to many Native Americans long before the time of Covalt Station, we would like to include a Native American exhibit in our Museum. If anyone would like to donate an arrowhead or other artifact, please let us know!

Terrace Park Historical Society

100 Miami Avenue Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

## MEMBERSHIP

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their support.

To our Lifetime members - Thank you for your very generous contributions - you have already donated substantially to our organization.

To our non-Lifetime members - We hope that you will continue to find our work worthwhile. You can use the following form or renew online at tphistoricalsociety.org/membership.

Membership Renewal Form

Yes! We want to continue to support the Terrace Park Historical Society by extending our membership through 2022. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for the following membership:

\_\_\_ Corporate(\$100) \_\_\_ Heritage(\$50) \_\_\_ Family(\$25) \_\_\_ Individual (\$15) \_\_\_ Lifetime (\$1000 Payable over 4 years) \_\_\_ Donation

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_ (As you would like it to appear in our records)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address:\_\_\_\_\_\_(We send very few, and only important email notices)

Thank you - we appreciate your help!

The Terrace Park Historical Society is recognized as a nonprofit organization by the IRS, IRS Code: Section 501(c)(3), Tax Identification Number: 51093908