

#### printed on recycled paper

**APRIL 1990** 

# Life After Death? A Doctor's Story

**VOLUME 22, ISSUE 4** 

When Terrace Park Life Squad volunteers pried Dr. John Vester from the wreckage of his car on Wooster Pike in August of 1973, he was so sure that he was mortally injured that in moments of consciousness he told squad members to tend to others with a chance of life, dictated a will while being taken to the hospital, and there received the last rites of the Church.

There the Milford physician, now director of medical research at University Medical Center, had the vision that, reported by so many who have been so close to death, is drawing serious research attention.

He told his story in a paper read later before the Cincinnati Literary Club, reprinted in part here through the courtesy of Discovery, the UC Medical Center Journal.

What happened was very real to me, and I describe it to you in that frame of reference. Whether it was dream, delirium or a transcendent reality, I cannot say. I only know that of the many periods of unconsciousness I was to endure during those early days, only this one has left me with a memory, and it is a vivid one indeed.

I found myself walking straight ahead out of the emergency room. I have since gone back and found that the area through which I seemed to walk was a blank wall. Nonetheless, I walked out of the emergency room leaving all the clatter and buzz of activity around my dying form behind.

I turned down a long corridor which was dimly lit and sloped downward. I had an idea where the end of that downward slope would be and found the idea less than appealing. About 50 yards ahead, to my left, I saw an open doorway through which a bright golden light was shining. I knew where that was going too, and was overjoyed when I realized that the door to that Happy Land was open. It was with the same matter-of-factness that I walked toward Eternity..

I was now about 25 yards from the Golden Doorway when I was addressed by a Voice. I did not know from where He was speaking but I had a very good idea of who was speaking. His words were these: "John, don't you think you ought to go back and finish your job?"

Considering the events up to this moment, I thought this was a novel idea. I can remember answering aloud, "I didn't know I had a choice.'

Nothing more was said, so I turned around, almost sadly, and started back. I reached the end of the corridor and turned back to the continuing clatter in the emergency room. Abruptly I awoke to find myself lying on the same stretcher and looking into the very blue eyes of my wife. I said: "Well, Sweet, I'm not going to die this time."

# **Police Are** Stymied In **Burglary**

Terrace Park police are keeping up a rigorous investigation of a former Sycamore Street youth they strongly suspect of having recently

### **Grocery Receipts** Will Help Schools

Both the Terrace Park Elementary and the Mariemont High School PTAs are collecting grocery receipts from Kroger and Thriftway stores in an effort to acquire IBM and Apple computers for the schools. Charlene McClurg and Candy Wachterman head the Terrace Park collection effort, while Nancy Weakley oversees the high school program. Villagers' receipts may be placed in the boxes in the hallway by the elementary school office or at the Swim Club later this summer. Collection boxes are also located at the high school office.

# **Janet Popelka Is Named** As Village's New Clerk

Janet Popelka became Terrace Park village clerk April 16, succeeding Judy Elliott who resigned after eight years service to return to full time employment. Mayor Jack Schmidt appointed Popelka to fill out the term which ends March 31, 1992

The timing for the transition is ideal, according to the mayor, since all the reports for 1989 were due March 31. Popelka will assume the clerk's duties as council is just starting the 1991 budget process and Elliott has agreed to continue with the village until Popelka is oriented.



**Janet Popelka** 

Serving the village will not be a new experience for Popelka who

trained for Life Squad five years ago and has been the squad scheduler for two years. She is currently a member of the St. Thomas Church Vestry and a past member of the St. Thomas Nursery School Board.

Popelka is also an experienced "minute taker" as she served as secretary and a member of the founding board of the Samaritan Counseling Center, a non-profit, interdenominational counseling program. She has her master's in social work from Illinois.

She and her husband Jason reside with their two daughters at 504 Yale Ave.

# Village Council To Consider More Explicit Dog Control Measure

Although still divided on the is- in any fencing. sue, village council will consider at its May meeting a dog control ordinance resembling that now in force in Cincinnati.

The Cincinnati ordinance makes it a punishable offense to walk a dog on leash or allow it to run without the person in charge having the means of picking up dog excrement and failing to remove it from either public or private property. Council at its March meeting had dismissed the idea of a so-called "pooper-scooper" law on the ground that the problem chiefly concerned private rather than public property.

Mayor Jack Schmidt asked Councilman John Prues to draft a proposed ordinance after Prues reported on steps taken by other communities.

Council members Barbara Howland, Dan Startsman and Rusty Wilson remained dubious, questioning the feasibility of enforcement and feeling that current ordinances met the problem. Councilman John Wenstrup instead strongly urged a specific measure which he said would send a "clear message" to the public.

Council at its May meeting will also consider a first reading of zoning changes offered by Mrs. Howland for the Planning and Zoning Commission. The changes would require four-to-six foot solid fences or evergreen plantings four feet or more in height between business properties and abutting residences, and would prohibit business parking within five feet of the common property line.

Council also:

\*Bids totaling \$32,128 for a new heavy-duty dump truck were accepted.

\*Preliminary plans for a new village maintenance building, drawn on a volunteer basis by George Kipp, were accepted. Police Chief Bob Bacon, as street commissioner, noted also that Kipp had saved the village "a considerable amount of money" in plans for street changes in the vicinity of the Post Office, and was drafting specifications for repaving the Community House parking lot.

\* Life Squad Chief Connie Wilson reported that the current recruit class is expected to begin serving by midsummer, with an in-house committee drafting plans for another class in the fall. Doug Bosse, Laura Colston, Jan Popelka and David Schloss have been appointed crew chiefs. The squad responded to 12 calls in

#### the past month.

\*Fire Chief Pierce Matthews reported one fire run with no loss, and said panic bars to be installed on the Community House front door would allow raising the occupancy level to 140.

\*Chief Bacon said he had met with Robinwood residents interested in an active Neighborhood Watch program, adding that he planned to encourage similar steps elsewhere in the village. Bacon also reported that Patrolman Dennis Qells is being considered for the county SWAT team.

\*Councilman Dan Startsman said the village again has been designated a "Tree City" by the National Arbor Day Foundation, and reported plans to plant 61 tulip poplars, English oaks and London plane trees this spring. Planting of 26 ash trees is being delayed since the variety desired is not currently available.

# **Recycling Plant Near, Dump Open to Clippings**

April meeting that the village gar- to put out trash for curbside pickup bage contractor hopes to have func- as they do now, with the exception tioning by year-end a plant that will of grass clippings and other garden cull out recyclable materials from what it collects here and elsewhere. As a result, Councilman John Prues, council's environmental watchdog, said he believed it "not practical" for the community to embark on an interim recycling program. Meantime, residents who so desire will be permitted to empty containers of grass clippings in designated areas in the village maintenance area between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on any day but Sunday. Police Chief Bob Bacon said later he was investigating methods of composting the material. A letter to be sent to all residents will detail the plan, while urging proper mowing and composting to eliminate the problem.

Village council was told at its said, householders could continue

committed his third Terrace Park burglary-on Sycamore Street.

So far, they have the facts that just paroled from prison, he had threatened to hit Terrace Park again, that a car resembling his was seen in the vicinity, and that the burglary followed the pattern shown prior to this arrest by Police Chief Bob Bacon on an earlier, similar charge. But the youth has stoutly denied any involvement and none of the estimated \$6,000 in loot has been found.

Bacon said he felt sure that the loot was disposed of quickly because of a police broadcast he felt compelled to put out. The loot included several firearms, and Bacon said he had to weigh the youth's capture against having an unsuspecting police officer walk into a potentially-dangerous situation.

suspect's parole and threat against the village, though unable to pin- onforgery charges. No names were pintwhere he would strike or when

Days and nights of extra patrolling failed to prevent the burglary, however, and a long stake-out of his present Anderson Township home failed to turn up anything that would cause his return to prison as a parole violator.

In a brief report, Bacon told vil-Informants had told police of the lage council at its April meeting that a village youth had been arrested mentioned

Current law requires open space

#### Book On Way

A new edition of the Terrace Park telephone book is being prepared and is expected to be ready in June. Distribution will again be handled by the village Kindervelt organization.

The book, issued every two years, is a long-standing service and fund-raiser for the volunteer fire department.

Word concerning the sorting plant came from Bob Orr of Rumpke Waste, Inc., who outlined the recycling situation at Prues' request.

With the plant in operation (

waste. Such a plant already in operation near Greenville, Ohio, he said, is already recovering 30% in volume of its daily tonnage and nearing its goal of the required 25% reduction in weight. With developing ability to handle tin and bi-metal cans, he estimated that all but 1% of recovered material can be recycled. A newsprint recycling plant planned near Maysville, KY, he said, should in the next few years revive the market for that material.

Orr offered to provide the village with a large partitioned bin in which residents could deposit recyclables. The cost would be \$100 for hauling each time the bins were filled, with the village sharing in the return from recovered materials. Mayor Jack Schmidt and others, however, raised the question of where such a container could be put to be useful but not unsightly even if the village did adopt an interim program.

### Matt Seik Wins MVP Honors

Matt Seik headed the list of Terrace Park students taking top honors at the Winter Sports Award Night held at Mariemont High School March 19. Seik was named Most Valuable Player, along with Mark Hammon, by basketball coach Jerry Cousins.

Coaches in the Cincinnati Hills League recognized Seik's defensive play by naming him CHL Player of the Year. Seik is the second player in Cousin's tenure as coach to be named to play in the North-South game at St. John's Arena in Columbus. The first so honored was Terrace Park resident Tommy

### **Cyclists Note**

Police Chief Bob Bacon notes there have been several recent incidents involving youngsters riding on sidewalks and coming up without warning on pedestrians. Some elderly walkers have suffered potentially dangerous falls as a result of being startled.

He asks parents to impress on their children the need to give an adequate signal of their approach and the hazards of failing to do so.

### SWAT Team Aids In Village Arrest

Hamilton County's SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team was called in early April 14 to help Terrace Park police arrest an Edgewater resident who had fired several shots after a drinking bout. Police Chief Bob Bacon said he was impressed by the extreme care the teamtook before entering the house, only to find the man had fallen asleep during the 4 1/2 hour watch.

A life squad crew stood by throughout. The fire department was called in when it was found one of the man's shots had cut a furnace oil line. He was identified as Kenneth Parrett, 41.

### Four Are Tapped By Honor Society

Four Terrace Park Students were among 18 tapped into the Mariemont High School chapter of the National Honor Society on March 16. They are John Baker, Randy Krueger, Abby Seik and Neil Stafford.

Current officers of the society are Nicki Thompson, president; Matt Seik, vice president; and Carol Picton, public relations officer.

#### To The Editor:

<u>Village Views</u> and Terrace Park have just lost a special friend. Bonnie Rawnsley, the editor's helpmate who also did the mailing, died on April 2. Her support of Ellis' many years of editorship is only one example of the love she had for the community.

However, it is as a personal friend that i remember her. Scores of Terrace Park residents-young and not-so-young, newcomers and oldtimers-also remember her. The Rawnsley back door always offered an unconditional welcome to those who knocked. Whether the topic was gardening, village politics, church, children or grandchildren (yours or hers), Bonnie bantered with wit and wisdom. She had high standards for herself, but was understanding and accepting of others. Her practice of "keeping in touch" with her many friends by phone or note is legendary. Over the years Bonnie and Ellis quietly served the village in myriads of ways. Their large back yard diminished in size as they willingly gave their land when the village needed space. We all enjoy this wonderful, friendly community that we recognize has been built and sustained Hodges in 1984.

Andrew Gilchrist won the basketball Warrior Award, starting almost every game until he hurt his back.

Girls' basketball Coach Watterson said Nicki Thompson's leadership and enthusiasm exemplified the real meaning of the Warrior Award. In awarding Brett Tritsch the Art Davies Warrior Award, Wrestling Coach Parker noted that Tritsch was only a freshman.

Sophomore Randy Krueger was named Most Valuable Swimmer. Krueger placed first in two events in the Southern Ohio Swim League.

Matt Seik



### Win Their Way To State Finals

Winning first place in the Region 5 Odyssey of the Mind Tournament held in Fairfield March 25 qualifies the Terrace Park team for the state finals at Ohio Weslyan University April 28. The team prepared an eight-minute skit, featuring a school of singing and dancing fish with a slide presentation of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Shown here in their fish costumes are (back row from left): Maren Schmidt, Maggie Kain, Jennifer Teichman, Amy Carle and Melissa Wachterman. In the front row are art director Amanda Campo, Coach Ricki Schmidt and director Zoe Hutton. The program has been run as an afterschool activity sponsored by the PTA for the last six years.



### **Squad Gets Gift**

Peggy Pettit, treasurer of the Terrace Park Players, presents a check to Life Squad Chief Connie Wilson to provide 12 personal face masks to members of the squad class nearing the end of its training. Each squad member has a personal mask for use in resuscitation efforts.

by civic leaders. Sometimes we become aware that even more contribution is made quietly and with continuing and constant effort by the Bonnie Rawnsleys of Terrace Park.

### Compliments of HARTE-HANKS Direct Marketing

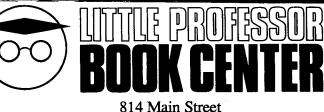
### Your Door Store Distributor

### REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS

#### MELVIN C. AICHHOLZ

CERTIFIED APPRAISER

727 FLORAL AVENUE TERRACE PARK, OHIO 45174 FOR APPOINTMENT CALL 831-2252



Milford, OH 45150 Ph: (513) 248-BOOK

We help you find books you'll love.

Phone 271-4422

TIRE DISCOUNTERS INC. 7525 Wooster Pike

on U.S. 50 between Mariemont & Milford, Ohio Cincinnati, Ohio 45227

My life was enriched by knowing her. We all will miss her.

Pat Henley

VILLAGE VIEWS STAFF Editor:

Ellis Rawnsley Associate Editor:

Ricki Schmidt Business Manager: Maggie Tobergte Makeup: Jane Peterson

Mailing: Pat Henley Advertising: Dot Sperry PORCH ENCLOSURES - KITCHENS - BATHROOMS - DECKS -





### Scouts Undaunted By Snow

Snow held no terrors for Terrace Park Boy Scouts when they woke up to find five inches of snow on the ground at Camp Michaels, Ky., on March 25. Standing with an unidentified scout are Terrace Park Scouts (from left) George Kipp, Tim Annett, Ben Ross, leader Rick Ballard, Chris Malotke, Ian Ross, Mike Reynolds, Michael Petry and Zak Hutton.

#### Oops!

source led Village Views last month to fully identify the post to which John Wenstrup of 110 Wrenwood has been appointed. He is assistant manager of the Union Central Life Cincinnati Career Development Agency.

#### Incomplete information from the Wins Superior Rating

Bethany Taylor, a 10th grade student at Mariemont High School, won a superior rating and a special award at the annual district Science Day at Miami University March 31. More than 600 junior and senior students participated.



# Board Eyes \$360,000 In Village, School Improvements

School Supt. Don Thompson totaling \$363,000.

The estimates included \$54,000 presented at a Board of Education special meeting April 3 a list of for the roof and \$50,000 for brick needed repairs to district buildings pointing at Terrace Park Elemen-

# Garden Club Changes Plant Sale Schedule

New hours have been set for Terrace Park Garden Club's annual flower sale. Pre-ordered plants can be picked up and spontaneous purchases made at the village green from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Friday May 11, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday May 12. Sale co-chairmen Donna Taylor and Gigi Daly said pre-orders of flats, half flats and hanging baskets will be taken by club members through April 27.

Time changes have not been limited to the plant sale as the club announced at its April luncheon meeting that its flower show, which had been every September, will now

#### Some Residents May Be Due A Tax Break

Residents who were caught in a building permit mix-up of a few years back will get some relief from accumulated property tax bills, which in one case topped \$10,000.

Barbara Howland reported at April's village council meeting that she had been assured by the county auditor's office that no penalties or interest would be charged, and those affected would be allowed to schedule time payments.

The problem involves some building permits issued in 1975 and 1976. A former village secretary mistakenly filed with the originals copies of building permits which should have gone to the county auditor. The copies are routinely collected as a basis for updating property valuations. Mrs. Howland said she had no idea how many residents had been affected by the error.

#### On Merit Roll

Julie Harth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Harth, achieved Merit Roll rating for the third quarter at Seven

be held every 18 months, alternating June and September.

Diane DeCamp was elected club president at the April meeting, Jane Harrier, vice president; Donna Taylor, recording secretary; Renee Mabry, corresponding secretary, and Bette Griffith, treasurer. Members at large are: Ogle Annett, Lucy Maish, Shirley Brown, Lydia Swallen and Elizabeth Bieser.

Black locust seedlings will be distributed to village elementary school students in a combined Earth Day/Arbor Day observance in May under the leadership of Debbie Oliver.

#### Foreign Visitors To Give Talks

School district residents are invited to gather in Room C-20 at 7:30 p.m. on May 16 to hear informal talks by Silvina Montral, an exchange teacher from Argentina who is living with the Pope family in Terrace Park, and three exchange students. The affair is sponsored by the Mariemont chapter of the American Field Service. AFS recently honored Mariemont High School for 30 years of participation in the program.

### **Competition Is Rife At Pinewood Derby**

Excitement filled the air as Terrace Park Club Scouts held their annual Pinewood Derby at the elementary school gym March 21.

Mike Campo organized this year's derby, with cubmaster Mike Pritz awarding the Pack 97 Overall Champion trophy to Alan Cowgill of Den 2B. Charlie Wilson placed first in Den 2A and second in overall competition, while Grady Randolph, third overall, finished first in Den 1. Andy Gray's car was named Most Creative, Joel Schimp's the Most Original, and Jonathan Pfaff's the Best Looking.

Additional first place Den trophies went to Michael Carle, Den 3; Taylor Heilbronner, Den 4; and tary, and \$10,000 to block up the windows in the gym.

In addition, Horizon Consultants has estimated the cost of removal of asbestos in district buildings at \$386,065.

Although the board discussed at its February meeting the need for a permanent improvement levy, it has taken no formal action to set the amount or the date for a levy vote.

Thompson also presented financial comparisons of district receipts and expenditures with the Consumer Price Index over the past 10 years. The average increase in the CPI was 5.56%, while the average increase in state foundation monies received by the district was 5.12% and the average residential tax increase was 5.7%.

At the regular March meeting, the board hired Terrace Park resident Sandy Ader to teach half-days at Fairfax Elementary. They also employed Assistant High School Principal Jerry Cousins on a three year contract, and administrator Steve Hawley on a two year contract. Also at the March meeting the board accepted a donation of folding shades valued at \$2,046 from the Terrace Park PTA for windows in the school gym.

### To Discuss Bill

Supt. Dr. Donald Thompson will discuss Senate Bill 140 at Mariemont High School. Already passed, it will affect us all. Among its key components is a provision for inter and intra district open enrollment. The Mariemont High School PTA encourages you to come.

Hampton Taylor, Den 5. Second in den competitions were Ward Heilbronner, Jonathan Malotke, Joe Campo, Chris Postler, Adam Merten, and Brian Randolph. Third place winners included Jack Schimp, Michael Pritz, Adam Parrish, Ted Borden, Josh Deeter, Ron Kautz and Tom Lewis.

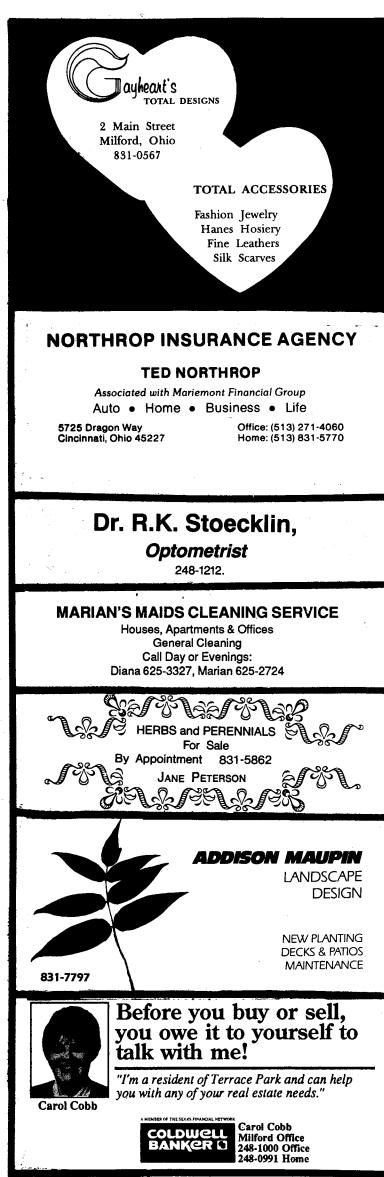
Chief of Police Bob Bacon served as race judge with Dave Lewis as master of ceremonies. Tim Schimp headed the pit crew while Jerry Malotke was track steward. Tim Harth started the races and Dave Mover was official scorer. Qualifications were organized by Buzz Wilson and Karen and Pat Gallagher.





Cubmaster Mike Pritz awards the Pack 97 Overall Champion trophy to Alan Cowgill (from left) and second and third place awards to Charlie Wilson and Grady Randolph.

Grass Clippings Pick-Up - Trucker seeks to arrange schedule of grass clipping pickups. Initial charge of \$1 will be reduced if volume develops. Call Bob Collins, 662-2095.



# Rec Group OK's New Bridge Plan

The Recreation Committee has accepted George Kipp's recommendation to replace the current bridge to the Swim Club, Drackett Field and Stump's Boat Club with a prestressed concrete box allowing an 11 foot lane and a five foot bike path. Kipp who has been studying the bridge for the village on a volunteer basis, estimated the cost at \$10,000 plus \$1,800 in engineering fees.

When financial arrangements are completed by the Recreation Committee, the Swim Club and Stump's Boat Club, he said, the current bridge could be torn down in one day, the new one set up in two days, and the bridge usable for heavy trucks and school buses after a 28 day settling period.

In other action, the committee agreed to reward each child selling memorial day raffle tickets with a memento, while the sellers of the three winning tickets would receive \$50, \$25 and \$10 cash prizes. Raffle chairman Scott Croswell said children would be selling tickets from May 7 - 18. Raffle winners will be announced at the Memorial Day festivities.

### **Concert Planned**

Terrace Park's Players are planning for a "Concert on the Green" starting at 5:30 p.m. on May 28. Jack Van Wye is organizing the local musicians who will play.

#### **RUMMAGE SALE SET**

The MariElders of Mariemont will hold a rummage sale at the former Dale Park school on May 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WANTED: Part-time Director of Christian Education, paid. Responsible for direction and oversight of all Christian Education programs for youth and adults. Need professional teaching experience or training, and experience in implementing programs. Should work well with children and adults and be a dynamic Christian person who is familiar and comfortable with liturgical-style services and programs. 20 hours per week involving some evening and weekend hours. Send resume or letter to: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 100 Miami Avenue, Terrace Park, OH 45174, ATTN: Christian Education Committee.

