

TRACKER

Tracking Our Past and Present for the Future



LOCATION:

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

VISITING HOURS:

Thursdays from 1-4pm

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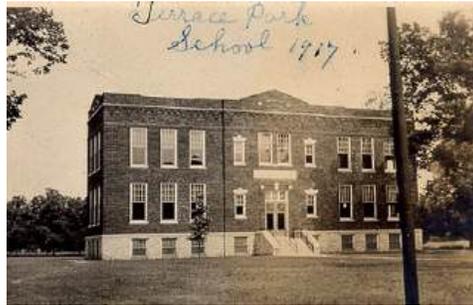
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TERRACE PARK SCHOOL



Terrace Park School 1917

There has been a school in Terrace Park since as early as 1853, and possibly earlier. The first was a one room school house on Indian Hill Rd, where The Birch is located today. A new building was constructed in the early 1870s on land donated by T. R. Biggs, and in 1915 it was replaced by the original brick building pictured here.

Students came from both Terrace Park and nearby communities including Camp Dennison, Columbia Township, Fairfax, Indian Hill, Newtown, Plainville, Mariemont, Marathon, Milford, and Red Bank. The school housed both elementary and high school students until 1957, when the High School was combined with Mariemont High School.

STUDENTS STRIKE TO AVOID TERRACE PARK

According to the Cincinnati Post, "On the first day of school, September 9 1940, thirty-three 7th and 8th grade pupils staged an orderly sit-down strike in The Newtown Public School Monday as a protest against being sent to the Terrace Park school. "

We have assembled the following story from numerous articles on the event in both the Cincinnati Post and the Enquirer.



The controversy began when the Newtown Board of Education voted on the Friday before school was to start, to send all 80 7th and 8th grade students to Terrace Park. The reason cited was overcrowding at the Newtown School. Five school board members voted, with 3 in favor and 2 against the transfer.

(Continued on page 5)

THANK YOU TERRACE PARK!

We would like to thank all the Artists, Sponsors and Volunteers who made our White Squirrel Celebration a success!



Sponsors:

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Steve Early
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VILLAGE VIEWS ARCHIVES

The Terrace Park Historical Society is now hosting the Village Views archives on our website. You can view the latest issue as well as the entire collection, from May 1969 to the present day by visiting <https://tphistoricalsociety.org> and clicking 'Village Views' on the right side of the website menu.

The issues are displayed by year and you will notice a button next to many of the issues labeled 'Index'. The Index is a table of contents for the issue. One of our board members, Susie Gray, has worked for many months to create an index for each issue, a huge job as there are over 600 issues! The indexes are valuable because they make it possible to do a search of the entire collection.

The Village Views has been in continuous operation for 55 years! Editor Steve Early continues the tradition with full color images, village events, council meetings, school news, sports activities, letters to the editor, and editorials, all with a personal touch!

BLANCHE, THE WHITE SQUIRREL



We couldn't let this issue go by without a note of thanks to our White Squirrels. Blanche, pictured here, likes to visit Sylvia Stirsman's yard for the all-day buffet.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 95 YEARS APART

Much has changed since 1930, including fashion! However, the front stairs to the school look exactly the same.

You can find a list of Terrace Park High School graduates through the years on the TP Survey website (tpsurvey.org). There is also a link on tphistoricalsociety.org under 'Resources'. The earliest records show a single graduate in 1890 - Mary Highlands. Subsequent years show graduating classes of at most 4 or 5 students until 1917, when there is no information available. But by 1923, more students are listed and by 1929 there are 15 graduates. The numbers grew over the years, with class sizes of 50 or more by the 1940s.



Class of 1930



Class of 2025

DAFFYNITIONS

(May 1957 Terrace Park High School Bulldog newspaper)

Afternoon Tea - Giggle, gabble, gobble, git

Synonym - The word you use when you can't spell the word you want

Sailor - a man who makes his living on the water, but never touches a drop of it on land

Birth, marriage, death - hatched, matched, snatched

Dictionary - it always has the first and last word

Garbage can - a good example of a collective noun

Widower - the only man who has an angel for his wife

Lifetime - any car will last a lifetime if the driver is reckless enough

TEN TOP TUNES,

(December, 1956 Terrace Park High School Bulldog newspaper)

1. Give me that ole soft shoe
 2. Stardust
 3. Goodnight Irene
 4. Has Anybody Seen my Gal?
 5. Five Foot Two Inches
 6. I'm a Lady
 7. Bavarian Beer Theme Song
 8. Smoke Gets in Your Eyes
 9. Charleston
 10. Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny
- Climbing up very fast: The Old Grey Mare

THIRD GRADE HISTORY WALK

On May 15, three classes of Terrace Park Elementary students were treated to the annual Third Grade Walk to Miami Grove Wilderness Preserve. They were lead by Steve Early, our Village Views editor and historian of Terrace Park, who pointed out the remains of the buildings that once made up the Miami Grove community, and described the life of the Native Americans who hunted and fished on this land before the European settlers arrived.



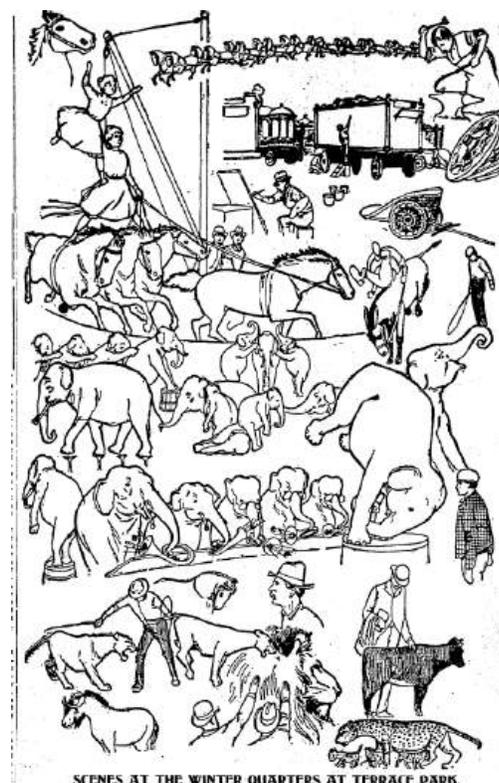
ALL IS READY FOR THE BIG SHOW TO OPEN

This is an excerpt from a Cincinnati Enquirer article, dated April 11, 1901. The writer visited the Terrace Park quarters of the Robinson Circus and left us with a colorful description of what he encountered there.

"Twelve miles out on the Pan-Handle, in some of the prettiest country in the Miami Valley, there is a busy beehive. A large plant, covering 25 acres and employing nearly 500 people, is just beginning to run at full blast, and from early morning till late at night, the rat-tat-tat of the hammer and the buzz of the saw, intermingled with the sharp commands of teamsters to their horses and the creaking of heavy wagons, loaded to the capacity with goods and merchandise of all descriptions, are heard above the rustling of the trees bending beneath brisk winds.

"Now and then, in this great plant, stranger sounds are heard as of jungle beasts roaring in anger or birds from another clime uttering their plaintive notes of fear at the uproar. If you chance by the place at certain hours of the day, you will hear the most terrific music, as of a hundred horns all in discord.

"The plant is the winter quarters of 'John Robinson's 10 Big Shows and the terrific music is made by the latest and biggest feature, the elephant brass band, members of which have been playing together for only a few weeks and are not yet in harmony."



(You can view the entire article on our website at tphistoricalsociety.org/the-robinson-circus.)

STUDENTS ON STRIKE TO AVOID TERRACE PARK CONTINUED

There were 2 main personalities involved - **Mrs. Lillian Fix**, the school board president, and **Cleve S. Sticksel**, a board member. Mrs. Fix voted for the students to stay, while Mr. Sticksel voted for them to leave. Mrs. Fix then resigned from her position as president of the board in protest and her husband, **Mr. Arthur Fix**, who was president of the Newtown Civic Association, planned to take the matter to court.

On Sunday there was a student demonstration, pictured on page 1, that involved a 'crude effigy' of Mr. Sticksel and placards reading 'Down with Sticksel'.

When the 7th and 8th grade students arrived at the Newtown School on Monday morning, about half boarded a school bus to Terrace Park, but the other half refused and began a 'sit-down' strike. It is unclear where the strike actually took place - the auditorium, lunchroom and gymnasium are all mentioned. One article even claims:

"rumors that there would be 'trouble' between the strikers and the other 7th and 8th graders who went to Terrace Park, led the students in the basement to barricade the door. **Bernice Fix**, 13-year-old daughter of Mrs. Fix, kept order among the strikers in the basement lunchroom".

At one point, the drama included a showdown between Mr. Fix and the Assistant Superintendent of County Schools, Mr. Wilson. Mr. Fix led the students to the 2nd floor of the school where they were confronted by Mr. Wilson and according to the Cincinnati Post,

"This parley then occurred:

Mr. Fix: I'm presenting these students to you, Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson: I'm not going to do anything.

Mr. Fix: Well, here they are. What am I going to do with them?

Mr. Wilson: I don't care what you do with them. Understand, though, I'm not in favor of elders contributing to juvenile delinquency.

Mr. Wilson refused to comment officially to the press, entered one of the classrooms and refused to come out for further parleying, despite several calls from Mr. Fix."

Resolution:

'A temporary injunction to prevent the Newtown School Board from sending 80 seventh and eighth grade pupils to Terrace Park School was denied Wednesday, after a stormy hearing before Judge Stanley Struble in Common Pleas Court. While denying the injunction, Judge Struble advised the Newtown School Board that those students who wished to go to Mariemont School instead of Terrace Park were entitled to do so and must be provided with transportation. Judge Struble used firm language several times to cut short the bitter bickering."

This story leaves many questions unanswered, especially the resistance of parents to send their children to Terrace Park School. That year, the Terrace Park graduating class showed 63 students, with 8 from Newtown. In the following years, the number of Newtown students increased and in 1957 they comprised about half of the graduating class, so perhaps Newtown was not able to address their overcrowding problems.

If anyone knows more about this story, please let us know.

Terrace Park Historical Society
100 Miami Avenue
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

HOW TO DONATE TO THE TPHS ENDOWMENT FUND



The Terrace Park Historical Society is the beneficiary of an endowment fund, held in the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, which will provide annual benefits to the Historical Society in perpetuity. Gifts to the Fund can be sent to:

Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Attention: Laura Menge
720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120 Cincinnati, OH 45202

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation website can be linked to from the front page of our website: tphistoricalsociety.org All gifts to the Fund are irrevocable. If you have any questions regarding gifts to the Fund please contact us at (513) 248-1777 or tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Gifts to the Fund are charitable contributions and are generally tax deductible. You should consult with your own tax advisor as to the specific tax impact for your situation.

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 other members - We hope that you will continue to find our work worthwhile. You can use the following form to join or renew your membership through December 2025. For online membership, visit tphistoricalsociety.org/membership.

Membership Form - Mail to: The Terrace Park Historical Society, P.O. Box 3, Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

Yes! I want to support the Terrace Park Historical Society with a 2025 membership. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for the following membership level:

Corporate/Patron(\$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