

TRACKER

Tracking Our Past and Present for the Future

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM



LOCATION:

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

VISITING HOURS:

Thursdays from 1-4pm

CONTACT AND COMMENTS:

(513) 248-1777
tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 3
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

WEBSITE:

tphistoricalsociety.org

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We hope you will Join us in January to hear this strange and sometimes shocking story.

**Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 4pm in the
Community Building**

Join us for an overview of our year, plans for the coming year, elections of officers, and a program:

'The Serpent King'

Presented by University of Cincinnati Art History Professor,
Theresa Leninger-Miller

'The Serpent King', Leander Millward, was one of the most popular and successful performers in the Robinson Circus. As you can see from the picture, he had a great fondness for snakes. Not only did he wrap himself with harmless boas and pythons - he had no fear of even the most deadly poisonous snakes.

BRINGING MAIL TO THE DOORSTEP

How Home Delivery Came to Terrace Park

By Ann Swenson

For nearly a century, most Terrace Park residents made a familiar daily trip to the post office to collect their mail. Although the U.S. Postal Service introduced free home delivery in 1863, beginning with major cities and rolling out across the country through 1900, our village continued to rely on post office pickup well into the 20th century.

That changed in the late 1950s. By then, home mail delivery had become standard across most of the country, but Terrace Park didn't follow suit until much later. It was not until April 1959—almost 100 years after home delivery began nationally—that the idea was seriously considered here.

(Continued on Page 2)



Post Office Box with lock combination

CANINE POLICE OFFICER



Sargent Mike Wright and Officer Barry

(from The Cincinnati Enquirer, Jan. 3, 1993)

In January of 1993, 'Office Barry' was sworn in as Terrace Park's first canine police officer. Barry was a full-blooded Dutch German shepherd given to the Terrace Park Police Department by the American Police Dog Academy, primarily for use in the anti-drug campaign.

Barry's handler, Sargent Mike Wright, needed to learn some Dutch words and phrases. Police dogs were trained to respond to commands in a foreign language, so as not to be distracted by orders given in English by anyone else. According to Wright, 'This is a brand new experience for me - I'm the rookie and Barry is the experienced police officer'.

Barry was also trained to locate missing persons and help apprehend suspects. According to the article, one of his other duties was to visit the Terrace Park Elementary School. We wonder if any of our readers ever encountered Officer Barry during his time on the force. We would love to hear any stories you might have about him.

MAIL DELIVERY CONTINUED

The push for this change came from a familiar face: my grandmother, Effie Miller. Effie served as postmaster from 1950 to 1972, and it was her initiative that got the ball rolling. She reached out to the leaders at the Post Office Department to request home delivery for Terrace Park, a change that would ultimately bring convenience to every resident's doorstep.

Effie and my grandfather, Stanley Miller, were deeply rooted in Terrace Park life. They moved to their Miami Avenue home in 1937— a year made memorable by the devastating Ohio River floods that left Wooster Pike impassable. Effie's role as postmaster kept the community connected, while Stanley, who served as village clerk and devoted himself to documenting local history, preserved its collective memory.

Over the years, Stanley assembled more than a dozen scrapbooks filled with clippings, photographs, and articles about Terrace Park and its people. These volumes capture both major events and everyday life, offering a vivid record of a village that has always valued its sense of community.



Effie and Stanley Miller with their sons, Dale and Stanley Jr.

It was in one of Stanley's 1950s-era scrapbooks that I discovered the newspaper article describing Effie's campaign for home mail delivery. It was a reminder that my grandparents were not only witnesses to history, but also active participants in shaping it.

Today, Stanley's carefully preserved scrapbooks form part of the Terrace Park Historical Society's archives, where they continue to offer an invaluable window into the past. Visitors are always welcome to explore them. You may find that within those yellowed pages lies a story that still resonates today.

KIDNAPPED BY THE CIRCUS?



This story, about a possible kidnapping, was brought to our attention by Richard Reid, archivist for Vorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina.

In October 1879, the Robinson Circus arrived in the town of Orangeburg, South Carolina. According to the Orangeburg Times and Democrat, dated January 10, 1911, a little girl named Lizzie Cain who was five years old and "a very smart and bright child for her age" disappeared during one of the performances. "A search was immediately instituted, but no tidings of the missing child ever came to the much-distressed mother and father."

"Every nook and corner of the circus and sideshow tents were thoroughly searched for the missing child, but nowhere could she be found". Friends of the family even followed the Circus to its next destination in Augusta, to no avail.

"The family mourned the lost little girl for many years but time, the great healer, finally reconciled them to their great sorrow and the little girl was given up as one dead". Then, 30 years later, the John Robinson Circus visited Orangeburg once again. One of the performers was a young woman who, according to visitors, very much resembled members of the Cain family. "It soon became noised about that this young woman was no other than the little girl who had been kidnapped some thirty years before."

"The matter was called to the attention of the city mail carrier, O.D. Cain, a brother of the little girl that had been kidnapped. In the hope of finding his sister Mail Carrier Cain visited the young woman on the circus grounds and sought an interview with her, which she readily granted. The young woman did not seem to know much about her early life. She did not know where she was born or who her mother was, as she had never known her mother. While she was not able to say whether she had been kidnapped or not, she said from her earliest recollection she had been traveling with the John Robinson Circus and that she was known by the name of Lizzie M. Lewis by her associates in the show."

"After a visit to the Cain family in 1911, Lizzie expressed the opinion that she was the little girl who had been kidnapped."

The story leaves many questions unanswered. How would a member of the Robinson Circus abduct a child in broad daylight and get away with it, and how would she have lost all memories of her childhood and family? So much time has passed that these questions will probably never be answered, but perhaps one day the truth will come to light.

You can find the original newspaper articles for this story on the Robinson Circus page of our website: TPHistoricalsociety.org.

HIDDEN TREASURE

We were recently visited by two Terrace Park Council members who were surprised and impressed that there was a Terrace Park Museum located in the basement of St. Thomas Church.

The museum was established in 2020 with the gift of Robinson Circus memorabilia by the Luneborg family, and has been growing ever since. You can find displays of historic homes and business, exhibits of Terrace Park High School, records of community organizations and events, artwork by Terrace Park artists and more. The museum is open during our office hours on Thursdays from 1-4pm, but other times are available by contacting us at tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

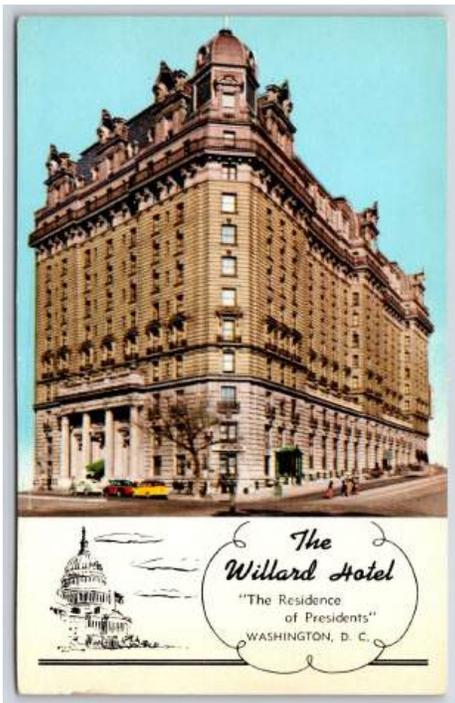


Terrace Park Historical Society Museum

TERRACE PARK HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.



Terrace Park High School Students in Washington, March 1955



In March 1955, the junior and senior high school students of Terrace Park High School took a school trip to Washington D.C. They traveled by B&O Railroad and stayed at the Willard Hotel.

One might be surprised that a group of high school students were provided lodging at one of the oldest and most luxurious hotels in Washington.

Since its founding in 1816, many presidents had stayed there along with famous guests P. T. Barnum, Mark Twain, Walt Whitman, Samuel Morse, the Duke of Windsor, Harry Houdini, Gypsy Rose Lee, Gloria Swanson, Emily Dickinson, Jenny Lind, and Charles Dickens. The hotel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the Willard in 1963 and it was the setting of several movies

including 'Minority Report', 'Contact', and 'Captain America - the Winter Soldier'.

In 1955 the hotel offered a 'Fountain Pen Hospital', a fur salon, a telegraph office, and a public stenographer (who could transcribe in shorthand). Transportation could be arranged for railroad, steamship, bus, 'pullman' (railroad sleeper cars) and four airlines: American, Capitol, Northwest and Trans World.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS!

The Ader Family, In Memory of Thomas F. Ader
Ed and Ogle Annett
*Mary and *Ted Annett
Nate and Lynda Bachman
The Baird Family
*Helen Christopher Barnett
*Ken and Polly Bassett
*Patricia Beglen
Richard and Patty Beyersdorfer
Adam, Holly, Connor, Janie, Braden, Caitlin Bortz
The Brittingham Family
*In Memory of Shirley and Stan Brown
*Eliza E. and *Bruce D. Brown, Eliza, Patricia, Stephanie
*Jack and Rosemarie Brown
The Rick Bryan Family
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Jennie and Roger Wade
Jan Watkins in Memory of Dan Watkins
*William R. and Susan Weakley
Breck Weigel
Wiebold Studios, Inc.
Roger and Dinah Winters

* Deceased

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

MEMBERSHIP LETTERS

Membership letters will be arriving in the mail soon. We thank everyone who has supported our work in the past and hope that you will continue to find value in our organization.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE TPHS ENDOWMENT FUND



The Terrace Park Historical Society is the beneficiary of an endowment fund, held with 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

You may also make an online donation at this address: www.gcfdn.org. Select 'Give Now' at the upper right of the page, then enter 'Terrace park Historical Society Fund' in the 'Search Funds' box.

A link to The Greater Cincinnati Foundation can be found on 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.