

# Village Views

Volume 15, Issue 2

Terrace Park, Ohio

February, 1983

## That Tree Problem

### An Editorial

It is disappointing to note that last fall's keen interest in doing something about Terrace Park's street tree problem has been allowed to almost fade away.

Some of the most hazardous trees have been taken down. A few new trees have been planted. Nothing else substantial has been done to grapple with the whole problem while the trees have deteriorated still more, butchery still goes on, and the village winter scene has become shabby.

And yet:

Three ordinances to set up a program to maintain and restore the trees were given pro forma first reading in village council last September and have languished since.

A citizens' tree committee has not been legally established or appointed and has been called into informal meeting only once. There has been only one public hearing.

In summary, almost six months have gone by with nothing done to resolve some very serious problems concerning one of Terrace Park's major assets. In fact, it was 11 months ago that an expert consultant reported our street tree forest to be "in a state of crisis," with 50 of the 2,478 trees dead or dying, 647 in poor condition, 833 in fair condition, and only 949 rated as good. His report said nearly 30% of the trees were in such a state that they should come down.

This is not to say that the ordinances mentioned should have been passed, except perhaps that creating the citizens tree board. Formal establishment of the board could have provided a means of full discussion.

There are some real questions.

The ordinances proposed imposition of a 30-cents-a-front-foot assessment to finance a 10-year program. In its only meeting, the unofficial tree board suggested a square-foot assessment as more equitable, an opinion that was favored at the only public hearing that has been held. Whether that can be done is another matter.

On another plane, there is the whole question whether this is an individual or community responsibility. These are village-owned trees on village property. Village residents own them, are responsible for them, and derive benefit from them, including property values which reflect the aura to which they contribute.

But some residents on re-

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### A Response

Village council is leaning to submission of some form of tax levy to finance a tree renovation program, according to Rich Gilchrist, chairman of the streets and trees committee.

But, he said, months of discussion have not yet resolved the question as to whether to submit a levy at a special election or at a regular election, or to incorporate the needed millage in a total village refinancing plan to be presented in November. Extra levies on which the village relies for most of its operating funds expire this year and Bob Payne, chairman of council's finance committee, is developing a new finance program.

Attempts to resolve the differences, he conceded, in effect are causing a year's delay in getting an overall program started.

Gilchrist's comments were in response to a *Village Views* editorial, printed elsewhere in this issue, deploring apparent lack of progress in formulating an overall tree program.

"Nobody on council is against trees," Gilchrist said, "but there are real differences on how far to go and how to pay for it."

There has, he said, even been a proposal that council issue bonds to finance the program's estimated \$300,000 cost. While that would provide the money for an all-out operation that would get the job done in a short time, Gilchrist said his personal view was that interest to be paid on the bonds would involve a material and undesirable increase in overall cost.

Council's thinking has been based on plans to accomplish the renewal program over a 10-year period at about \$30,000 a year, and to retain control over the expenditures.

The \$30,000-a-year figure approximates the yield of a two-mill levy.

Gilchrist said he read the present mood of village council as opposed to imposition of a front-foot assessment. He said he thought that handling the problem in a method like that of sidewalk assessments, even if possible, might impose unduly high costs on some property owners.

Financing proposals, Gilchrist said, also face a political problem in winning approval. Some property owners on streets planted in recent years have voiced objections to plans that would tax them for tree work in older sections of the village. Gilchrist said most of those new

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## Bridge Low Bid Is \$140,000, Work May Begin in March

Replacement of the Elm Avenue overpass now is expected to start in March, following opening of bids and pending formal approval of the county commissioners.

Les Overway reported at February's village council meeting that the low bid on the project was \$140,000, or \$10,000 under the engineering estimate.

But he added that the village received "an unfortunate surprise" when it developed that the project required lowering the depth of a water line on the Park Avenue side of the span, at a cost of \$8,700. The county, he said, refuses to consider the work as part of bridge replacement, and Indian Hill is sticking to contract provisions that make

Terrace Park responsible for major water line changes.

Council's meeting began with the swearing-in of Ken Bassett as a councilman to replace Bolton Drackett, who resigned.

Later informal discussion called for a study to support an appeal for raising the speed limit on Wooster Pike between the Western corporation limit and Wrenwood. The former 35-mile limit there was nullified by a court finding that it contravened state rules concerning housing density.

Councilmen Overway and Bill Konold voiced concern over children's use of the highway in reaching Drackett Field and the Swim Club in the coming season.

An ordinance proposed by Councilman Rodger Miller to repeal past legislation and ban further multi-housing private drives received a second reading, with Overway questioning its effect on the Brendamour property the village now owns. Miller said he felt street width differences involved were too slight to affect development. He noted that there still is some interest in the property, but the situation is clouded by the Brendamour right of first refusal.

Notices of a public hearing on the ordinance to be held in March will be posted on village bulletin boards.

Council learned with some surprise that eight homes in the village are covered for \$236,000 by federally-subsidized flood insurance which will be nullified some 10 months hence unless council adopts required building standards for flood-threatened areas.

The word came from Peter Finke, of the water division of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources. Finke noted that the village approved entry into the initial stage of the flood insurance program in 1975. It is being called on for further action to make the program permanent now that detailed studies have been completed.

Copies of the report, noting affected properties, are available for inspection at the village office.

In other actions, council:

- Approved appointment of Jeffrey R. Schaefer as an auxiliary patrolman at \$1 a year.

- Was questioned by Roger Ward and George Eveland concerning action on removal of illegal fences. They were told that the three affected property owners have been told to remove the fences, but no specific time limit has been set.

## State To Push Ahead With Little Miami Trail

Ohio's director of recreational planning expects to push ahead with some park development of the former Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way. How and where may depend somewhat on the feelings of Terrace Park, although state officials indicated little sympathy with voiced protests.

The director, Roger Hubbell, told *Village Views* that the proposed development would be financed by a federal grant of \$700,000 which expires at the end of this year.

Hubbell noted, though, that the grant is only for development and may not be used for personnel. A major question concerns what policing the state is prepared to provide to prevent incidents such as those which have marred other parks.

Saying that he felt that much of the opposition arises from misunderstanding, Hubbell said he was interested in having a public hearing so that state officials could explain their stand and get the views of village residents. Plans call for an asphalted

bicycle trail and an earth path for hikers from Kroger Hills to Spring Valley, with a parking lot and headquarters building at Kroger Hills.

Coincidentally, Mayor Charles Rockel reported at February's council meeting on a meeting with state officials and a confirmatory letter on the state position.

He said the officials contended that vandalism and improper use would be greater if the strip were left undeveloped; that Terrace Park residents would be major users, and that experience showed that "all towns gripe at first and then come to love" such developments.

The mayor, however, urged continued opposition, adding that he had additional indications of concern from Indian Hill.

## Water Rates To Go Up

Indian Hill village council is expected to pass at its late-February meeting an ordinance increasing water rates by 10%. The increase will also affect Terrace Park, which gets its water supply from Indian Hill.

Village Manager Jim Jester said the charge would actually raise minimum water bills to \$19.50 as against the present \$18, up 8%. The minimum is based on the standard service through five-eighth inch piping. Rates increase proportionately for larger service taps.

The new bills probably will take effect in March.

Jester said Indian Hill had considered a 30% rate increase, but decided to make it in gradual steps instead of one jump.

**Next Scout Paper Drive — March 5**

## About Deliveries

Our new delivery system, through inclusion in the Door Store packages of American Advertising Service, seems to have met with general approval. We ask readers to advise their neighbors to look for *Village Views* in the packets on the third or fourth Monday of each month.

A few residents, by request, do not get the package delivery. If they do not choose to resume (call 542-7700), the paper can be mailed by sending \$3 to cover postage and handling, to Mrs. Ellis Rawnsley, 717 Wooster Pike.

# Former Villager Comes Home As Curate Of St. Thomas Church

By Eleanor Winchester

Another serious-minded, but bright and outgoing young couple has moved into the 100-year old house at 101 Miami to replace George and Amy Hill, ready to immerse themselves in the life of Terrace Park and St. Thomas Parish. They are Burt and Denise Froehlich (pronounced Fray-lick), Burt being the new assistant to The Rev. Robert D. Gerhard.

Tall, dark-haired, fair-skinned, and unflappable, Burt is unique among St. Thomas assistants in having a solid Terrace Park background. Old old Cincinnati German stock, Burt was born in Cincinnati, then lived in Milford. When he was eight, his parents, Marge and Fred ("Bud") built the house at 710 Stanton Ave. where Bill Weakley now lives.

Burt recalls that his mother had a reputation for "palming off" stray animals and birds on people. For about a year, the family had a pet coyote pup, which his mother discovered one morning under the old barn then behind their house, and once also had a talking bluejay. (Burt's parents later moved to a farm near Sardinia where they could raise livestock and enjoy country living.)

As part of a typical Terrace Park boyhood, Burt recalls that he used to "tootle around" on a bike with friends, hunt snakes and salamanders in the church creek, sing in the Junior Choir, play Knot-hole baseball, go to the Log Cabin in summer, and camp out with Boy Scouts on land adjoining Wooster Pike. But he misses the trains that once passed through.

Burt graduated in 1969 with the last Mariemont High class to emerge from the current Middle School building. He was on the school's first swim team, which practiced thrice weekly at Withrow High, where the chlorine was "so thick that people were occasionally dragged out unconscious," including Rob Jenkins, son of Bob and Hildy Jenkins.

In between Terrace Park and Terrace Park, Burt went to Morehead State University in Kentucky, where he switched from pre-med to psychology. Graduating in 1974, he went on to develop a crisis-intervention line in Morehead, to help people avoid the crises he was tackling. He might have continued in psychology, but went to seminary instead. He had been inching toward a vocation since his junior year in college, when he had peritonitis and survived. At Easter that spring, recuperating at home, he heard two sermons by Mr. Gerhard. They answered many questions and he felt "a sudden tremendous know-

ledge of God's love fall on me like a ton of bricks."

From then on there was much soul-searching and discussion until Burt "skidded" into Virginia Theological Seminary as the last candidate from the Diocese of Southern Ohio before a three-year moratorium began. Graduating in 1978 with a Master's in Divinity, he was ordained deacon by Bishop John Krumm in May, 1978, at the same time as Noel Julnes, daughter of Norval and Marilyn Julnes of Terrace Park.

Meanwhile, another milestone occurred. He married Denise Huddleston of Frankfort, Ky., whom he had met at a Christian fellowship at Morehead State. Denise, formerly a Baptist, is an attractive, friendly person with a bubbly laugh. She graduated with a degree in public affairs and government and later worked toward an MBA.

Growing up in a political environment, Denise worked for Wendell Ford, first when he was governor of Kentucky and later when he was a

United States Senator.

Burt's first job was as an assistant at an Episcopal church in Potomac, Md., where he was ordained by Bishop Krumm. Next the young couple moved to Jacksonville, Fla., where Burt gained both suburban and inner-city experience. From a church with a large budget and a TV ministry, he went for six months to a church in a depressed inner-city area — a church with a food pantry, a clothing closet, and the largest day-care center in Flor-

ida.

They wanted to return to this area, mainly to give their three-year-old son, Daniel, the heritage of family — grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins nearby. Burt and Denise are looking forward to tennis (Burt also plays golf and guitar). Denise's other interests include needlepoint and flower arranging and — most immediately — curtain making!

## Police Concern Mounts As Few Pay Heed to Village Stop Signs

By Jeff C. Harlan  
Terrace Park Police

Your police department has received several complaints about numerous instances of stop sign violations occurring in the residential areas of the village. Chief Pottorf has asked all officers to watch for such violations. But, I wonder what goes through the minds of the drivers who disregard the simple command...STOP.

All of us were taught to come to a complete stop at one of these octagonal signs. But how many actually do? I took the opportunity to observe traffic at one of the busier intersections, and I found that very few cars came to a complete stop. Flagrant violators received citations that will cost them \$43. But, I became much more interested in the casualness others

displayed.

I found the drivers to fall into one of several categories.

First is the conscientious driver who automatically comes to a complete stop, looks both ways, and then looks again before proceeding. The second driver is on the lookout for danger. He does not really care to stop, but he will if something makes him ... like a police car at the intersection. He's most noticeable because he usually stops in the middle of the intersection — after he spots the police car.

Two other types of driver are the most dangerous.

There is the blatant violator who simply blows the sign off its pole. He is, by far, the most noticeable and the most des-

picable. Then there are the many who slow down for or roll through a stop sign.

The reasons are varied. Some deny they failed to stop ... which makes little sense. After all, the officer was observing the intersection just for that sort of thing. Others feel that not stopping was justified because each driver believes he could safely observe traffic: vehicular or pedestrian.

Some argue about the validity of a stop sign. We often hear that that is a silly place for a stop sign and that we should be ashamed to enforce it. Others tell me the most amazing story ever: that they actually thought that all they had to do was slow down.

Stop signs serve a purpose. They not only regulate traffic flow through an intersection, but also control speed. I would hate to see the raceway Miami Avenue could be without stop signs. The law requires that a driver come to a complete stop at a stop sign. No amount of slowing down will do ... the car must STOP.

The future, I am sure, will bring more intense enforcement of the stop sign violations. Nothing would please me more than to spend several hours watching a stop sign and not have to stop a single car. But something tells me that there will be many who will read this article and still believe we were just kidding.

## Julnes Again Named Church Senior Warden

Norval Julnes was elected to his third one-term as senior warden of St. Thomas Episcopal Church at the church's recent 107th annual parish meeting.

Alan Joslyn was elected to his second term as junior warden.

New members elected to the vestry were: John Kin-

month, two year term; and Beatty Collins, Debby Kauffman, Carol Peterson and Ted Ringwald, three year terms. They replace Fred Caswell, John Hodges, Mel Pauly and Shirley Rohlfing. Continuing on the vestry are Helen Barnett, Chip Bettle, Charles Comfort, Dick Ward, Charlie Beech, Ace Tollefsen and Dottie Vickers.

The meeting heard a report from Beech, chairman of the Every Member Canvass, that the campaign yielded 327 pledges for a total of \$264,000. The church's 1983 budget was reported as \$286,416.

Other reports noted: Church attendance in 1982 totaled 27,193; there were 27 baptisms, 33 marriages, 14 funerals and 16 confirmations; St. Thomas has supplied the greatest number of volunteers, 54, to the Inter Parish Ministry program in Newtown; the annual bazaar raised approximately \$10,000; Sunday School enrollment is 120.

## Acquisition of Library Court Decision

It may take a court ruling to decide what's to be done with the building which now houses the Milford Public Library.

The library, now part of the Clermont County library system, is planning to move to a new building in uptown Milford. While the Milford Historical Society has indicated interest in moving its museum to the building, one of Milford's oldest, there are difficulties.

Milford's library was given the building under the will of Dr. Richard C. Belt, who died in 1930. But the will provided that if the library ever left the building would become the property of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Terrace Park.

"We don't want to be the bad guys," said the Rev. Robert Gerhard, concerning use of the building by community-related Milford organizations. But the church, he added, must enforce its rights to avoid later complica-

tions, so that the whole matter now is under legal study.

A factor, he added, is "that we could use it" for such things as extension of the Inter Parish Ministry or as a counseling center.

The old stone building by the bridge, he said, certainly had become inappropriate for library use, with no room for expansion and a location at the traffic center of Milford.

Dr. Belt, a native of Goshen and Milford's leading physician for more than 50 years, gave the building as a memorial to his daughter, Hannah. The reversion to St. Thomas Church indicated his long devotion to the parish.

Both he and his wife were confirmed in the church when it occupied a wooden structure in Montauk, an early development in the area between the river, Wooster Pike and present Sycamore Street. He became a vestryman in 1886, junior warden in 1855, and senior warden in 1912.

## Trees

(Continued from P. 1)

cently-planted streets say they don't see why they should have to pay for planting trees in front of other peoples' homes, although planting new trees is a small part of the overall problem. Offhand, the argument seems a bit like objecting to sharing in the cost of resurfacing Home Street because one happens to live on Wrenwood, but it is a point of view that should be considered. It might even suggest a different approach. The job perhaps could be done by direct assessment against the taxpayers benefiting the most, just as sidewalks are financed.

Obviously there are problems to be solved and decisions to be made. We can't sit on our hands and just hope they'll go away.

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Francesca Lipton of Terrace Park says American businessmen must take a world view if they are to increase their share of world trade. Fluent in five languages, she's formed a company to teach executives foreign tongues. (Enquirer photo by Fred Straub)

## Terrace Park Woman Helps Business Compete Abroad On Equal Footing

BY GREGG FIELDS  
Enquirer Reporter

John Cassidy is 59 years old and until recently hadn't studied a foreign language "since high school Latin."

But the president of Cas-Ker Co. does some traveling abroad and also has business dealings in South America. So he decided to learn Spanish with the help of Francesca Lipton. Lipton's company, Systems International, slants foreign language classes toward the businessman who, in addition to conversational skills, may need to know tips on entertaining, etiquette and culture.

In just a few weeks of intensive training, Cassidy says, he was fluent. That removed one of the hurdles involved in exporting clock parts to South America, he says. And traveling is easier, too. "I recommend her very highly," he says.

He's not the only one. Baldwin-United, Procter & Gamble and Allis-Chalmers are among the firms whose executives have taken courses at Systems International since it was founded a couple of years back. The company has expanded its customer list at a steady rate and, by May, will be "established," says Lipton, meaning, presumably, profitable.

Not that she appears to need the money. Born Marquessa Francesca de Olaguer y Angelon in pre-Franco Spain, Lipton is the daughter of wealthy international traders.

She spent her formative years hopping among homes in Barcelona, Paris and Manila. "At the time it wasn't considered a luxury, it was considered an obligation," she says.

The Spanish Civil War removed that obligation. Suddenly all the titles were military ones, and they didn't hold much respect for Spain's wealthy citizens. She was shunted off to Switzerland. Some of the wealth has since been recovered, but several relatives, including her grandfather, were killed.

Eventually she married and her businessman husband moved her to Cincinnati. That

marriage didn't last. But her fondness for America did. She's now a naturalized citizen and a Cincinnati booster. But through the years she has left for various periods of time, like an eight-year stint with the State Department. Just in case she gets homesick she maintains a couple of homes in Europe.

Lipton's facility with languages is perhaps a combination of her extensive travels and a natural gift. "Ut's like a clicking," she says. "Don't ask me how I do it; I don't know." She speaks English, Italian, Spanish, French and German.

And many Americans could too, she says, but they won't try. She attributes part of that to the fact that English is the world's dominant language.

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*The Cincinnati Enquirer*

Also, for corporations, America's post-war affluence kept them from exploring world opportunities.

"Up to now American business has served the American market," says Lipton, who speaks with a trace of her mother country. "But times have changed. The world is shrinking."

She sees herself helping companies deal with this smaller world. "We help companies become international through teaching languages and cultures. I think it will help Ohio get into the world."

Ambitious as that may sound, speaking a foreign language certainly can't hurt. And Lipton's courses can, if nothing else, teach them fast. "Two weeks give you 1,100 words, three weeks 2,500 words and in four weeks you're fluent," she says.

It doesn't come easily. Students must study a minimum three hours daily. Some courses take eight hours a day five days a week.

Generally, she says, executives make good students. But they're worriers.

"They're very touchy," she says. "A child has anxiety about his first exam and executives pass through the

same thing. You have to teach them not to fear making an error. But I think interest in growing within the company increases their wanting to succeed."

Several executives, she claims, have landed contracts or received promotions because of learning languages. Which is a payback of sorts, since her courses aren't cheap — some cost thousands of dollars.

Lipton prefers teaching in her home — which is a little like a small piece of Europe. Her Terrace Park house is filled with objets d'art, antique rugs and beautiful antique furniture that she has picked up in her travels. The setting is almost opulent. Live-in servants keep the coffee cups filled.

"One of the nice things," adds Cassidy, her former student, "is that she's so pleasant to be around."

English isn't spoken during Lipton's classes. During class various "survival" phrases are taught. And the culture of the subject country is studied — everything from architecture to the way people cut their food.

In the near future, she plans some changes in her business. One is to get more clients; as the business grows, she expects to hire teachers and become more of a manager. The second is to concentrate on Cincinnati businesses; in the past she has traveled around the state to conduct courses. Finally, she plans to learn and teach Japanese; presently, she speaks no Asian languages.

She discounts any suggestion that she should retire. "The world has changed," she says. "You can't just go play bridge each day."

### Trees

(Continued from P. 1)

streets fall into the village's large precinct. Thus, he said, council must face the possibility that a substantial negative vote there could offset approval elsewhere.

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### An Invitation To Nursing Mothers

Mothers or expectant mothers considering nursing their babies are invited to a meeting of the La Leche League on Tuesday, March 8, at 10 a.m. at 728 Elm Ave. Mothers who have nursed their babies and have information to share also are invited.

The league sponsors informal discussion groups to give mothers opportunity to share information about breast feeding and mothering. For further information call Janet Phillips, 831-0194.

### Named Director

Anne Konold of Terrace Park has been named Child Care Director of the Inter Parish Ministry in Newtown, operated by a group of area churches of which St. Thomas Church here is one.

Holding an MA degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Cincinnati, she was the ministry's summer recreation director two years ago.

### Joins Sorority

Amy Bowman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rick Bowman, 607 Home St., was recently initiated into Alpha Gamma Delta sorority at Miami University. The organization has listed some 70,000 college and university women as members since its founding in 1904.

### PTA Planning Fashion Show

Terrace Park PTA will hold a fashion show at Terrace Park Country Club at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, with proceeds to be used to purchase computer or playground equipment.

Village residents will be models, with women's and men's fashions from Christophers and children's fashions from Chatterlings.

Tickets at \$6 must be purchased in advance. Because of limited seating there will be no tickets sold at the door. Dessert will be served and there will be door prizes and a raffle.

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