

Over 11 Village Homes More Than 100 Years Old

Shaky Hamilton County courthouse records list 11 Terrace Park homes as being more than 100 years old, but there may be several more.

The records are incomplete because of rioting in late March of 1884 in which the existing courthouse was burned. Cincinnati had been on edge because of a series of gruesome murders — nine in as many days — and public temper boiled over when an 18-year-old accused of murder was found guilty of manslaughter instead. A lynch mob stormed the jail but failed to find the prisoner and then wrecked and burned the courthouse. Troops were called in from all over Ohio and by the time three days of rioting ended 56 people had been killed and more than 300 wounded.

Earliest records seemingly suffered most. As a result, homes built before 1865 — including three in Terrace Park — are listed under that arbitrary date.

Investigations at the courthouse by Mel Aichholz show these houses and the dates they appear on tax records:

720 Elm Ave., the home of Dick and Lynne Mileham, 1880.
1005 Elm Rd., Mrs. Carl Lindell, before 1865.

305 New Street, Edward and Vivian Morris, 1866.

722 Park Ave., William and Martha Graf, 1881.

726 Park Ave., John and Jane Carothers, 1875.

729 Park Ave., Roger and Jeremy Oberle, 1875.

115 Red Bird Ln., Dan and Jan Watkins, before 1865.

306 Rugby, Timothy and Barbara Harth, 1870.

111 Terrace Place, Doug and Lynn Carden, 1881.

601 Wooster Pike, Fletcher and Jean Knight, before 1865.

722 Wooster Pike, Harold and Mary Smith, 1876.

Houses missing from the courthouse records but qualifying

Your House, Too?

Is yours one of Terrace Park's old homes?

We'd like to complete the record, so that if you have evidence of an early construction date, please notify Mel Aichholz, 831-2252.

as among Terrace Park's oldest, according to owners' papers, include those of Flach and Angela Douglas, 1 Circus Pl.; Mike and Betty Buschbacher, 410 Elm, and Ron and Carol Cole, 725 Wooster.

Flach said that as far as he has been able to determine his house was built about 1864 by T. R. Biggs, who was a prominent figure in business and in the early history of St. Thomas Church. The house has been generally-known as the Robinson house for its later occupancy and expansion by John Robinson of circus fame.

Betty Buschbacher said their papers showed their house was built in 1876, while the former Cornish house at 725 Wooster, now owned by the Buschbacher's daughter and son-in-law, dates from 1865.

The building now housing the Doll Shop at Wooster and Indian Hill has been dated from 1850. It most likely was not listed on the tax records since it was a schoolhouse in the beginning, although it was later occupied as a residence.

(See pictures on p. 3)

It's Terrace Park's 90th Birthday Year

By Pat Henley

Terrace Park celebrates its ninetieth birthday on April 13, the day in 1893 that the village was incorporated by residents who had formed an Improvement Society to forestall annexation by Cincinnati.

The plain on which the village stands was occupied by Indians long before the white settlers came. First there were the mound-building Hopewells between the years 700 and 1200. Later the Miamis were in the area and they and other tribes used two trails which crossed the Little Miami River here for access to Kentucky.

In 1789, Captain Abraham Covalt, a Revolutionary War veteran, brought his family and 33 friends down the Ohio River by flatboat from Pennsylvania. Established along Red Bird Creek near where St. Thomas Church stands, they erected a stockade, blockhouse and 17 small cabins. During one of the Indian raids Covalt was ambushed and killed. A plaque in the churchyard commemorates this early settlement.

Another early settler was John Smith, one of Ohio's

(Continued on P. 2)

Little Chance Seen of Blocking State Park Recreation Corridor

Village Solicitor John Getgey indicated at the March meeting of village council that he saw no prospect of blocking state plans for a bicycle and hiking trail on the former railroad right-of-way through Terrace Park.

Displaying a Department of Natural Resources map of the

proposed corridor, he said the project almost certainly will go through if the state has sufficient funds. But he added that the development might not happen and "only time will tell."

Dave Pannkuk asked if a village referendum might not impress state officials, but

Getgey said he felt such a vote would have to be state-wide since state park developments are for general and not purely local use.

As a result, Pannkuk suggested that the village set up a "what if" commission to speculate on possible future public or private developments "so we aren't surprised again" by moves of concern to the community.

The comments came at a meeting at which council:

- Passed without comment, despite past controversy, an ordinance prohibiting future development of multi-house private drives.

- Gave first reading to an ordinance to prohibit, as eyesores, erection of satellite discs for TV reception.

- Raised the 1983 village budget to \$432,922, which would involve a \$36,952 deficit offset by a 1982 surplus.

Confusion over enforcing the new state drunk driving law which takes effect March 16 was discussed. The law requires first-time offenders to be confined for three days. Mayor's Court does not have this authority, nor does the village have confinement facilities. Getgey reported that there have been talk in Columbus that DUI cases will no longer to be heard in mayor's courts.

Police Chief Ron Pottorf said the new law could be very costly for Terrace Park since appearing in county court takes about six hours of a policeman's time, and loss of revenue would be considerable.

Councilman Les Overway urged all residents to be sensitive to the goal of keeping the village clean and free of litter. Some householders have been in the habit of dumping grass clippings and branches on the side of Elm Street and could be cited for this practice. Bundled or bagged dead branches and garden refuse will be taken by trash pick-up. Overway praised the work of Pottorf and his street crew for repair of equipment, saving a substantial amount of money.

Councilman Rich Gilchrist said plans are underway to remove 24 more dead or dangerous trees and 12 new trees will be planted. He called for a joint meeting of the tree committee and finance committee to discuss future measures.

The greenbelt area on Given Road has been a recent target of attention, Pottorf reported. The gravel pit has been cleaned up, trails are being improved and benches added.

That Fence Dispute Still Is Simmering

A months-long dispute over some non-conforming fences continued to simmer at the March council meeting, with one of the protestors starting to talk of filing to compel the village to enforce its zoning rules.

An offshoot has been a change in building inspectors, with Mayor Rockel announcing appointment of Robert Corey, 715 Park Ave., to replace John Eberhard who resigned.

George Eveland and Roger Ward appeared again before council to ask what had been done about fences to which they object. They had been told in January that the three property owners concerned had been notified, but with no specific time limit set for change or removal. At the March meeting, with Councilman Les Overway stressing "the issue of fairness" to all concerned, Mayor Rockel

suggested that affected property owners apply for new building permits which, if denied, could be appealed to the Zoning Board.

At issue is Section 1143.04 of the zoning code which says:

(a) No fence exceeding six feet in height shall be erected around or within those lots designated as side yards and/or rear yards.

(b) No fence exceeding four feet in height shall be erected around or within lot areas designated as front yards.

(c) No hedges bounding front yards shall exceed four feet in height, nor shall any hedge extend into the sidewalk area of the street.

(d) All fences erected under subsections (a) and (b) hereof shall have at least thirty percent free or open area measured in a horizontal plane.

Want Garden Space?

The village is prepared to make garden space available to residents on the former BBS property it now owns at Wooster and Elm at the western edge of the community, which it is contemplating putting in the village green belt.

Police Chief Ron Pottorf said that if there is sufficient interest, individual plots, probably 20 by 20 feet, would be made available at no charge. He asked any residents interested to notify him.

Archives Set Up

Mayor Chuck Rockel announced at the March meeting of village council the setting up of an Office of Archives in charge of Councilman Bob Payne.

Interest was stimulated by the finding of council minutes from the late 1800s.

Rockel asked that residents having any historical material concerning the village which they may wish to place in the archives to contact Payne.

New Bridge Work Gets Under Way

Work on the Elm Avenue overpass started March 9, with CG&E crews beginning necessary location of utility lines.

The present bridge is to be demolished and replaced with an at-grade crossing under a \$140,000 contract financed — except for engineering costs — by Hamilton County. Completion is expected about June 1.

Once CG&E crews have completed their work, an initial step will be preparation of a temporary ramp for emergency use and for use by children going to and from school. A guard will be on duty during school hours.

Miami Avenue and the western end of Elm Avenue have been designated as official detours. While many residents will use New Street, Fire Chief Pierce Matthews asked that they avoid New Street when the fire siren is sounding to avoid conflict with emergency vehicles on the narrow roadway.

Former Village Mayor Sees Community Gain in State Park Plan

By Ray Cadwallader
Mayor of Terrace Park, 1976-80

There has been considerable recent discussion regarding the development of a hiking and biking trail on the Penn Central right-of-way through Terrace Park. Village council has expressed its opposition by resolution and petition of 500 signatures has been presented expressing the same opposition. I feel it is important to make known the historical background of this program in order to enlighten our citizenry.

I. In about 1973, the Penn Central Railroad announced its intention to discontinue the use of the right-of-way. Prior to this date, the right-of-way was allowed to deteriorate. I remember two incidents during that time as follows:

A death occurred to one of our young citizens who was playing on a junction box and happened to grab a hot power line. He was electrocuted. The Village Council and I as a citizen requested a Public Utilities Commission hearing on this matter and it was concluded that the junction box would be relocated to avert a repetition of this senseless death. Our desires were satisfied by the Penn Central Railroad.

I remember walking the right-of-way and finding many plates (which hold the rails to the ties) loose enough that I could remove spikes and plates with bare hand. I wrote to the Penn Central Railroad and copied the Brotherhood of Railway employees. This letter was adequate warning to be used in court to prove that Penn Central Railroad had prior knowledge of the condition of the right-of-way in Terrace Park.

These incidents were some evidence of the dilapidated shape of the line at the time of abandonment.

II. During the many years up to 1978, the Village was constantly being burglarized by individuals who lived or visited the former Tex's Cafe-Tower Hill area. This is the area which the State of Ohio has reverted to natural condition (immediately south and west of the Swim Club area). It was reported to Council that as much as 25% of the village police call time was spent at Tex's Cafe because of shootings, fights, and other illegal activities. The police were even hesitant to risk their personal well being in the area. It usually took two police cruisers (a county sheriff or backup Mariemont policeman) to quell the disturbances.

Many burglaries of village homes were planned from the Tower Hill/Tex's Cafe area. It was also reported to Council that the biggest "fence" on

the eastern side of Hamilton County was most convenient to the Tower Hill/Tex's Cafe area. The Mariemont Superintendent of Schools expressed serious concern that the same area was the source of importing hard drugs into the school district. (These social problems were high on the agenda for action by the Village Council. We undertook numerous efforts to have Tex's Cafe closed and its liquor license revoked. A series of bureaucratic obstacles occurred over a two year period which prevented this revocation.

III. The East Fork and Caesars Creek Flood Control projects were being completed. These projects, obviously would lower the level of the 100 year flood plain. This would then tend to remove properties from flood plain zone areas. The subject 120 acres could then be rezoned by the county for light industrial or multi-family residential purposes. This type of development was threatened many times by the former owner of the property. Former mayors could speak to these matters and the damage that could be done by this former owner.

IV. The Little Miami River was designated a Wild and Scenic River by the State of Ohio; however, it could not be designated a Federal Wild and Scenic River unless certain sub-standard housing conditions were removed and certain in-stream mining operations were eliminated. The Tower Hill area was a prime target for these concerns. The former owner of the property was mining gravel in the river. Many law suits were triggered by the village and myself to stop this in-stream mining operation. We, in fact, lobbied successfully for changes in the state law regarding in-stream mining operations.

The above history led to the obvious conclusion that Terrace Park could only control the subject property by annexation and zoning or by changing the ownership of the property to public ownership for park and recreation purposes. The Village Council endeavored twice to obtain signatures of property owners in order to commence an initiative petition of annexation, but failed both times. The only remaining alternative was to change the ownership of the property.

The first step in acquiring public ownership to this property occurred by means of transfer of 82 acres (Kroger Hills area-Indian Hill) from the City of Cincinnati to the State of Ohio. This land had a value of about \$350,000 which was matched by a grant amount from the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to the State of Ohio. This grant allowed the State to buy the property from the adverse property owner, close Tex's Cafe, relocate 22 families living in the area and revert the property to a natural state. This activity removed the major deterrent from final

designation of the Little Miami River as a "Wild and Scenic River."

During the middle 1970s, the Penn Central Railroad Company (then in Receivership) negotiated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to sell the 44-mile right-of-way from Mariemont to Roxanna, Ohio (north of Waynesville). This sale was important in order to clean up the bad condition of the track and its impact on the "Scenic River."

Penn Central would not sell

the right-of-way in pieces to ODNR but only as one large sale. This transaction essentially occurred with the exception of about two miles between Terrace Park and Mariemont (this was later conveyed to Little Miami Inc. through the benevolence of Frederick Hauck).

These transactions placed the right-of-way totally in lands that were oriented toward park-recreation wild-natural uses.

Penn Central was out of the picture; Tower Hill-Tex's

Cafe were demolished; the in-stream mining operation was permanently stopped; Terrace Park remained protected from environmentally-degrading circumstances.

I respect my fellow citizens who may oppose the hiking and biking trail through our village, but I strongly feel our village is much safer and more pleasant today than it would have been were it not for the actions of past village councils and mayors.

Our 90th Birthday

(Continued from P. 1)

first two senators. A Baptist preacher from Virginia, he came to this area to serve several congregations but became involved in politics and as a member of the territorial legislature promoted statehood for Ohio.

He built the house on Elm Road long owned by the late Mayor Carl Lindell and Mrs. Lindell, and there he entertained Aaron Burr. Impeached for conspiring with Burr, he resigned his Senate seat. The charges were never proved, but the notoriety forced him into bankruptcy and he moved to Florida in 1812.

Camden City was an extensive town platted in 1850 at the intersection of Given and Indian Hill roads. Although it had a schoolhouse, blacksmith shop and saloon, the venture failed. In 1873 another town, Gravelotte, was laid out on the south side of Wooster Pike. It too failed.

Also in the 1870s, the name Terrace Park was chosen by Jacob Traber, a local manufacturer, who held a naming contest. The long forgotten winner received one of Traber's sewing machines as a prize.

Village government was much like that of today. The first mayor was Carl Floto. John Robinson of circus fame gave \$15 to start a general fund. Among the first council's accomplishments were sidewalks, and the purchase and planting of 800 trees. Local citizens planted an additional 1,400 trees between 1896 and 1899.

The first church established in the village was Baptist. When the congregation disbanded, the building erected in 1890 by G. W. Corey (grandfather of Robert Corey) was bought by interested citizens who held it until the village could purchase it in 1921 as a town hall. It is the present Community House.

John F. Robinson III built

Expansion Begun At Scout Cabin

Work got under way March 8 on an addition that will triple the size of the Scout Cabin at the Elm Avenue playground. The \$10,000 cost is being met by funds provided by a former resident of the community.

Dedication ceremonies are planned in mid-May to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Boy Scout Troop 286.

The enlarged cabin will become headquarters for the troop, which has been meeting at St. Thomas Church. It will provide space also for Terrace Park Players equipment.

New Manager

Jan McAllister, 835 Douglas, takes over this month as the new business manager of *Village Views*.

She succeeds Pat Beech, 717 Franklin, who has served for the past five years.

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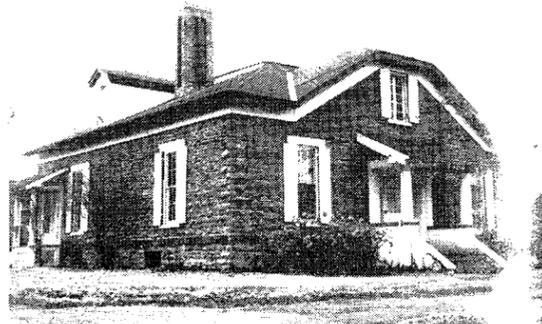
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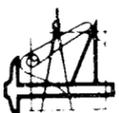
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**PTA Projects
Provide School
Equipment**

The Ways and Means Committee of the Terrace Park PTA has successfully completed three projects raising money for the purchase of a computer and playground equipment for the school.

In the fall, a Pumpkin Festival was held at the elementary school under the direction of Linda McCormick, Jan Duckwall and Darlene Menchoffer. Later, Sharon Haines assisted with Sun-catcher sales which included a variety of stained glass ornaments. This spring, a fashion show under the guidance of Melanie Sheridan and Mary Armstrong featured fashions and desserts at Terrace Park Country Club. Many local businesses and parents supported the show as patrons.

Ways and Means chairman Suzanne Lakamp would like to thank the many volunteers who worked so diligently on these projects, and the many residents of the community who have given the PTA their support.

**Community Chest
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Dominic Costanzo, business district sales manager in Cincinnati for Nationwide Insurance, has been appointed chairman of the Allocations Division of Greater Cincinnati Community Chest and Council vice president of the Board of Trustees. The allocations division, composed of 200 volunteers is responsible for allocating \$19 million dollars to 115 chest agencies.

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