

Village Views

Volume 16, Issue 7

Terrace Park, Ohio

July, 1984

The Green Hasn't Been There Forever

By Mel Aichholz

To the Terrace Park of today, the village green has been the heart of the village forever. But in fact, it came into existence on July 9, 1930.

That was the day when the far-sighted village council of the time bought the eight parcels of property involved.

Today the county auditor values the tract at \$75,600, but what the village paid for it is unknown. The records presumably are in a locked safe at the Community House, the combination of which has been lost. In those days, deeds were recorded for \$1 each. Today, the fee is for each \$1,000 of valuation.

Since the purchase, there have been numerous proposals submitted for use of the green, but each has fallen by the wayside. It remains today much as it was 50 years ago, except for projects recommended by the Garden Club.

During World War II, an Honor Roll was erected on Terrace Place, listing those who served. Flanked by artillery guns, it stood for many years but has now been replaced with a stone memorial and bronze plaque, which reads, "TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED."

For many years, a large Christmas tree in the center of the green was lighted and decorated by the fire department, enhancing the holiday season and encouraging the decorating of the homes in the Park. Although the tree was vandalized at times in the 50s, it was lighted every year at Christmas until 1983 when the lights were used to decorate the Community House.

The Labor Day Festival originally started on the school playground during World War II with Betty McDonald as chairman. The hamburgers were a sell out as meat was rationed. Later, the event was moved to the village green with the proceeds for recreational purposes.

Back in the 40s, Mayor Lindell suggested a new municipal building for housing village offices, police and fire departments. There was also provision for the Post Office and a food market, but the proposal was never submitted to the voters.

Still later, there were proposals for a municipal swimming pool and tennis courts, but by 1960, things had changed. Khrushchev was rattling the sabre and threatening to "bury" the United States. Fear was rampant and young mothers worried. Mayor Jordan proposed that a bomb shelter be built on the green at a cost of \$250,000. The bond issue was passed and the village made the front page of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Later plans called for building the shelter at the end of Amherst Avenue, instead of tearing up the village green. However, the bond issue was frozen by a class action suit against the village. More than 25 taxpayers hired Flach Douglas to test the legality of the bomb shelter bond issue.

After five years of lower court hearings, the Supreme Court ruled the bond issue was invalid, because the description on the ballot referred only to a "public building." The court ruled that the voters had not been properly informed.

There have been several proposals in recent years for utilization of the village green. One was the erection of a gazebo for band use. Over the years, trees have been planted, some as memorials. There are bronze plaques located near Terrace Place honoring Evelyn S. Lloyd, first president of the Garden Club; Mary M. Wiley, member of the Garden Club, and John R. Gehrig, former village solicitor.

Still In Doubt

At the *Village Views* July 11 deadline, Business Manager Jan McAlister reported that 138 village residents had contributed \$1,043.75 to support of the paper since the annual call in May. In June the record was 110 contributions for a total of \$700.

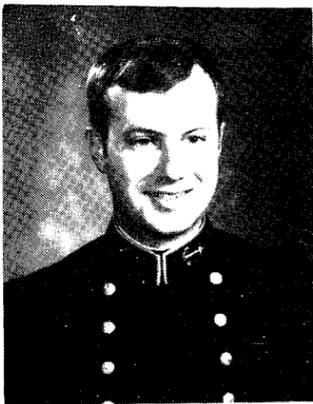
If You're Away . . .

Villagers going away can arrange a stop on the Door Store packages delivered weekly.

To make a stop, call Millie Tinker, zone manager of the advertising service, at 542-1200.

Complaints Lead Council To Move Against Din

So dubious of results that it was at one point accused of "a cop-out," village council moved at its July meeting to act on complaints of intolerable noise emanating from the Golden Pheasant on Round Bottom Road.



Commissioned

Robert J. Gundlach, son of Mrs. Kathy R. Gundlach, 624 Yale Ave., Terrace Park, graduated with merit from the United States Naval Academy and was commissioned Ensign in the United States Navy. A 1980 graduate of Mariemont High School, he will report to Newport, Rhode Island, for further schooling after a vacation in Europe.

Differences Arise Over Windfall

Differences over what use to make of an anticipated estate tax windfall surfaced at a budget hearing preceding July's council meeting.

The sum is \$129,000 above council expectations for this year. Finance chairman Bob Payne proposed that \$80,000 be used to pay off the village note on the BBSCO property and \$49,000 set aside for future fire equipment. Mayor Les Overway said he believed the village should invest the money and profit from high interest rates. Payne replied that the investments the village was allowed to make would not be that lucrative.

No action will be taken, however, until the money actually is received late this year.

The BBSCO issue evoked the only comment from residents present. Bob Ingeman said that unless there was a valid village use, keeping the property was "not the way to go." He complimented council, though, on the \$30,000 reduction in the upcoming budget — \$528,891 as against \$560,289 in 1984.

erable noise emanating from the Golden Pheasant on Round Bottom Road.

Mayor Les Overway urged Ken Bassett and his Rules and Law Committee to move quickly on a study of legal considerations. He named Bob Payne to be "point man" in putting pressure on any and all county agencies that might be of help.

Council members, Solicitor Dick Wachterman and Police Chief Ron Pottorf echoed Al Nelson's comment that there was little chance of doing more than modifying the raucous, five-night-a-week music. But they urged residents to keep up and document individual complaints to develop a record for any legal actions that might result.

Ted Swenson acted as spokesman for the more than 20 residents present and "dozens more" unable to attend. He cited loss of sleep and tension resulting from the din, and unwelcome disturbance through much of the village and in parts of Indian Hill.

It was he who voiced "cop-out" when initial council

discussion centered on the difficulties of taking action. The tide turned when Councilman Bob Payne said he felt that civil court action would be "one of the most worthy lawsuits" in which the village could be involved. But he urged residents to mount a "well-ordered, persistent campaign" against county authorities.

Chief Pottorf said he felt that county police had been cooperative in attempting to get the owner of the Golden Pheasant to reduce the volume, while stopping short of issuing citations. Wachterman said the prosecutor's office was "very discouraging" and showing little interest in pressing criminal charges which he doubted would succeed. He said he saw little success in "anything short of a civil suit" which would be expensive and a difficult case to win . . . and what would you win?"

Faye Corey, however, objected to another village lawsuit, though Char Lumley said the issue was "a village matter" in which individuals could exert little pressure.

Villagers Get Promise of 'Straight Answers'

Mayor Les Overway reported to the July council meeting a state auditor's report absolving council of charges of illegal actions concerning the Pschesang zoning issue defeated at the November elections.

An unidentified resident had asked the auditor to investigate alleged illegal executive sessions and illegal use of village funds to inform resident villagers of council's views.

The mayor said that "the auditor has informed the village clerk and me that his investigation has revealed that council's use of executive sessions during this period was legal, as was using village money for mailings."

Defending the commitment of past and present councils, he added:

"To anyone who has a question about how this council does things or about any other village matter, I invite you to come to a public council meeting and ask your question."

"If you feel uncomfortable doing this, simply call one of the council people, or any other elected or appointed

village official and ask your question.

"I guarantee you a straight answer."

In response to a *Village Views* question, Overway said that it had been concluded that a tie vote at the May meeting defeated a proposed zoning change for the old toll house property, and that his vote against the proposal, breaking the tie, was merely for the record.

Councilman Jack Schmidt reported that 100 trees have been removed and 274 others pruned, and that pruning of small trees to provide sidewalk and street clearance is continuing. Plans for new plantings and on next year's program are expected to be announced in August.

Schmidt urged homeowners to prune shrubs blocking sidewalks and obscuring street corners.

In other action, council:

- Raised to \$3,000 legal fees in the Officer Rowe case now awaiting decision.

- Learned that street repairs are about to begin, and called for bids on a new roof for the Community House.

New Development Is Proposed On Wooster Pike Motel Site

Substantial variances from current village zoning regulations are being sought for a proposed residential development of the motel property on Wooster Pike.

The development is being proposed by Dick Ward, Al Duplace and Rick Koehler, all residents of Terrace Park. They told an exploratory meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission in late June that the variances are necessary to permit full utilization of the tract because of the nature of the terrain.

No action was taken pending further development of some aspects of the plan and investigation by the village solicitor of some legal questions.

The plan contemplates construction of 30-32 homes on

10 acres of the 12 acre plot. Two acres lie within Indian Hill and would be part of a greenbelt. The houses would be on a dedicated street called Dartmouth Lane.

The planners told the commission they are proposing smaller houses, in the \$125,000 range, on smaller lots. That, they said, they believe meets the needs of many current home-buyers, although the belief was challenged by some residents of Wagon Road Lane. They projected a property tax yield of \$27,000 to the village.

Major variances concerned lot sizes and setbacks.

The three asked for a 7,000 square foot lot size as against the present village minimum of 12,000 square feet, while noting that the limit would be met if the entire property,

including greenbelt areas was taken into consideration.

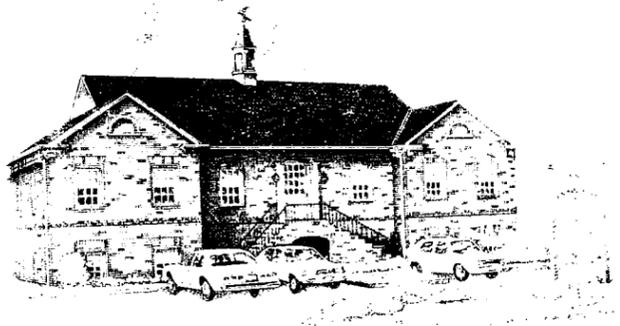
Because of the hillside, they asked that the existing 15 foot setback rule be waived to allow 27 feet on one side and three feet on the other. That, they said, would still provide 30-foot spacing between houses.

They also asked for 60-foot frontage as against the existing 85 feet.

The commission asked for more information from the planners and the solicitor on a proposed single, air-reduction sewage system, and on the form of residents' organization which would govern and maintain the system. However, Duplace subsequently reported that plans for a central system had been dropped in favor of individual units.



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In Exhibition

A painting by Jeremy S. Oberle of Terrace Park, a lower school art teacher at Cincinnati Country Day School, was on recent exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Center in downtown Cincinnati. Mrs. Oberle got the idea for the 4 x 2 foot watercolor and ink picture, "Moonscape: Harness House," on a nighttime walk in Terrace Park. Her painting was hung in a juried show sponsored by the Contemporary Arts Center and the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts with the support of Cincinnati Bell.



To The Editor —

To the Editor:
To The Policemen of Terrace Park:
We have an ordinance in the village that all dogs should be on a leash when taking a walk. This does not mean running loose. Why can't our police respect this ordinance and do something about it. Please don't say you are too busy. Mariemont also has an ordinance against all dogs and cats running loose. They abide by it and the police see that the people do.

To the Editor:
I was disturbed by your recent notice regarding the lack of funds for the Village Views.
Your informational paper is needed in the village to keep everyone up-to-date with village happenings. I cannot imagine most households not reading your paper — and so doing, should feel obligated to contribute a few dollars for this service.
We're all proud to be Terrace Parkers, so let's help sustain our local paper and the loyal people who have been doing such a good job for years.
Send in your contribution now, before it's too late!
A Regular Reader/
Contributor

To the Dog Owners of Terrace Park:
When taking your dog out, why must you use the neighbor's yard and shrubbery for their bathroom? What is the matter with your own yard? Yes, we have a dog and cat. They never go out of their own yard. They are on leashes. I am sure we are writing in behalf of most of the people of this village.

Unsigned

To the Editor:
Support would be more forthcoming if the paper reflected more accurately the happenings in council (instead of depending on the "handouts for the press") and the activities of its citizens.
Limiting insipid articles on how to help save money for the village via trash collection to a space instead of three columns might spark support too!
The paper should follow council's spending instead of trash collecting.

Since this letter was unsigned, we can only agree with the writer's own estimate of the value of the comments.

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[Other staff names]

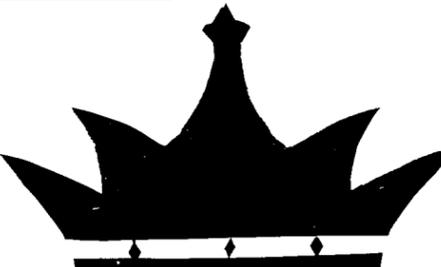
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Moped Users Now Need Helmets, Rear Mirrors

Sgt. Jeff C. Harlan
Terrace Park Police Dept.

Winding up its session for a summer vacation, Ohio's legislature has now made it mandatory that anyone under 18 must wear a protective helmet with a strap properly fastened when riding a moped. The moped must now be equipped with a rear view mirror and must be operated within three feet of the right hand edge of the street.

In addition, the law now prohibits any operator of a moped from carrying a passenger. There is only one make of moped to which this rule did not previously apply. This law now includes that make also.

Beginning in January, 1985, all mopeds will have to display rear license plates. Also, 14- and 15-year-olds will have to obtain probationary driver's licenses. A license can be revoked until the age of 16 should the

holder violate even a single traffic law. At the age of 16, the operator can then obtain a regular operator's license.

One more thing — the moped operator is required to obey *all* the traffic laws. Be sure you watch those stop signs!

This new law will affect only those who operate mopeds. But, another decision has been handed down by our courts that could affect each of us.

The Eastern Division of the Southern District of Ohio, United States District Court, in a case entitled Moore et. al. v. Arrow Truck Lines, Inc., et. al, held that evidence of a person's failure to wear a seat belt can now be admitted as evidence in a civil proceeding. This admission could affect the outcome of a claim you might have should you be injured in an auto accident and not be wearing your seat belt.



Promoted

Northlich, Stolley, Inc. has announced the promotion of Tom Hostenske, 415 Western Ave., to account supervisor. A specialist in advanced technology business-to-business and industrial accounts, Hostenske graduated from Ohio State University in 1979 with an M.A. in business communications.

In Who's Who

Bowling Green State University announced that William A. Bullock of Terrace Park has been chosen for inclusion in the 1984 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. He was named for academic achievement and campus leadership.

At Institute

Hannah Payne, 629 Lexington Ave., is attending a summer session at Acadia Institute of Oceanography at Seal Harbor, Maine. She will be a 10th grade student next year at Summit Country Day School.

Practice for the fall soccer season is already under way for youngsters six through 13.

All who have not registered should do so at once. Registration forms can be picked up at the Jamboree sporting goods store on Route 50 in Milford between July 23 and August 4.

Win School Honors

Country Day School middle-schoolers Kritsa Myslik and Daniel Weston of Terrace Park were awarded school year honors at an awards night June 6. Kritsa additionally was recognized for contributions to all areas of school.

Win Honors

High honors for scholastic achievement in the past year were awarded by Country Day School to Peter Field, Karen Moore and Elizabeth Winchester of Terrace Park. Jacob Scholl won a Lower School award for contribution to school life.

Wins Scholarship

James D. Wallis, 111 Robinwood, was recently awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Kentucky Motor Transport Association at Eastern Kentucky University. He is a student in the College of Business there.

Canteen Gets Help From AARP

Terrace Park's chapter of the Association of Retired Persons voted at its July meeting to contribute \$100 to a start-up fund for a projected Mariemont School District teen-canteen.

The canteen would be located in the former Dale Park school in Mariemont, operating during the school year.

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Given Award

Roddy M. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodger Miller, won an award for outstanding achievement at LaLumiere School, a college preparatory school at LaPorte, Indiana. The award was for his freshman year.

Awarded Degrees

Raymond Walters College (University of Cincinnati) announced that Kathleen Bell, Marie Ramsdell and Lowell Sanker of Terrace Park were awarded associate degrees at the conclusion of the 1984 spring quarter.

Church Honors Mel Aichholz

Mel Aichholz of Terrace Park has been honored by Armstrong Chapel as historian emeritus. The chapel, founded in 1831 by Nathaniel Armstrong, is one of the oldest in the area.

The Armstrongs were the leading pioneer industrialists of the lower Little Miami River Valley and operated three water-powered mills for grinding grain and sawing lumber. The Heritage Restaurant, once the home of Nathaniel Armstrong Jr., has been placed on the list of historical buildings by the Ohio Historical Society.

Mel's ancestors were early pioneers in this area at the time Covalt Station existed in Terrace Park. The Aichholz farm in Plainville was sold to Mary Emery in 1920 for the development of the model village now known as Mariemont.

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