

## TRACKER



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## TPHS Headquarters

100 Miami Avenue  
Open Thursdays 12 to 3 p.m.

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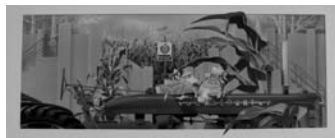
## Tracker

Kim Newton - Editor  
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## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CHILDREN OF ALL AGES, IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO WELCOME

the TPHS Gallery to the Village of Terrace Park!

Step right up, won't you, for a "thrill that can't be beat" - the wonderful new Terrace Park Historical Society's Gallery is coming to town! This new space, funded in part by the 2010 White House Tour, a grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation, and the TPHS general fund,



*John Maggard*

offers the Village of Terrace Park a wonderful place to learn about our Village history. We're welcoming the new addition to our Village with an Open House featuring light refreshments on Monday, May 30th, immediately following the Memorial Day festivities on the Green. We hope you'll plan to join us!

The TPHS Gallery, located in our offices in St. Thomas

Church, is a part of our latest initiative, TP Creatives, and it features the work of authors and artists who have lived in or who currently reside in Terrace Park. Some of those represented are: Jim Rauth, Tom Rogowski, Becca Worple, Joe Rouse, Louise Borden, Patti Normile, Camilla Warrick, Lisa Stickney, Ruth Binkley Rauth, Gayle Gillette Hummel, Gail Morrison, Claudette Graumlich, Amy Evans, Rosell Shundich, Ken Norvell, Stan Thomson, Will Hillendbrand, John Maggard, Erin Rosson, Joanne Kennedy, Elaine Fening,



*Circus Costumes*

and Trudy Stevens. Many others have made plans to donate so the Gallery will constantly be

changing as new pieces arrive. The generosity of these friends of Terrace Park is amazing and to



*Gaia (Gail) Morrison*

them we say, take a bow - we appreciate you all!

Another and very important aspect of the Gallery is the opportunity for the Historical Society to showcase memorabilia that has been collected over the years. **We are hoping that one day the Gallery will be as full of vintage pieces of Village history as it is of new.** Unfortunately, that is not the case as of now. As the saying goes, "time is a circus, always packing up and moving away." We hope you will *continued on page 2*

## TP HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS 2011

## LIFETIME

Stoddard and Rebecca Rowe  
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Eliza, Patricia, Stephanie  
Leslie C. Jones  
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Jim and Ann Gilchrist  
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Jack and Barbara Smith  
Julie B. Northrop in Memory of Ted Northrop

John and Linda Rockaway  
William R. and Susan Weakley  
Nick and Rosell Shundich  
Barbara G. Self  
Eleanor S. Gallagher in Memory of W. Graydon Gallagher  
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James H. and Susan J. Porter  
Michael and Kay Pope  
Joanne and Paul Kennedy  
Jeanette MacMillan Pruiss and Carl Pruiss  
Rita O. Leming In Memory of Robert O. Leming  
Al and Lynn Nelson  
Donald E. Hughes and Sharon K. Collins  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Long  
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Jack and Rosemarie Brown

Alan and Bette Griffith  
Keven Shell and Sandra Wittman-Shell  
Childress Rodgers  
In Memory of Shirley and Stan Brown  
Nate and Lynda Bachman  
John and Margaret Hodges  
In Honor of "Zip" and Kay Ferriell by Kathleen, Dennis and Roger Ferriell  
Jan Watkins in Memory of Dan Watkins  
William L. and Elizabeth A. Holloway  
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Mary Armstrong  
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Rick and Trish Bryan  
Wes and Shelley Cowan  
Bill Graf  
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## President's Letter

Dear Members,

What an exciting time for the Terrace Park Historical Society! The opening of the TPHS Gallery on May 30th is a dream come true for our

Society. With this new gallery and museum, we now have a place to showcase many of the items we have been collecting and to spotlight the

creative people who have made our village their home throughout the years.

Through the efforts of the board of directors and, in particular, Susan Frank, Steph Jones, Lynne Mileham and Anne Lindell, this Gallery will be a place of pride for generations to come. Thank you one and all!

One thing you will notice in our Gallery is that we have many more new things than old. This is something I hope to see change. If you have a piece of Terrace Park history gathering dust under your bed or in your basement, or a box of pictures you have no time or interest in reviewing, we ask you to consider giving them to TPHS to care for and display. You can be assured that we use proper archival materials so that our items are cared for well. If you think you might have something to share with us, please contact the office or me directly. We appreciate your consideration.

Once again, thank you for your support of TPHS, and please plan to join us for the Open House at our new gallery following the Memorial Day Festivities.



## CLARIFICATION OF TPHS

TPHS has received many questions as to why we have not been more vocal about the recent building activity in town. We feel it important that everyone be aware that the Terrace Park Historical Society is not a building preservation society. Historic preservation is an endeavor that seeks to preserve, conserve and protect buildings, objects, landscapes or other artifacts of historic significance. *The mission of the Terrace Park Historical Society is to foster understanding of and appreciation for the historic heritage of Terrace Park.*

We carry out our mission by making efforts to educate the public about Village treasures - including buildings - in our programming and by protecting documents and artifacts that we keep in our archives. We make no claim to being a building preservation society, and we do not make recommendations to homeowners unless asked to do so. Of course it is our hope that education of the public will lead to preservation of Village treasures. We do not want there to be any misunderstanding of our role and purpose.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

TPHS loves our volunteer Susan Rodgers!

**Background** Susan's family moved to 313 Rugby from Rochester, NY in 1970. Her par-



*Susan Rodgers*

ents were Irene and Ben Updegrove and many will have fond memories of her Mom as TPES librarian.

**Why does she volunteer?** She finds Terrace Park a fascinating place and she feels her family roots really are here.

**What are your duties?** I accession new items that come into the archives and complete the necessary paperwork along with it.

**What would you say to visitors?** Everyone is so welcoming and you would definitely want to visit and look at the amazing amount of information we have!

## WONDERFUL DONATIONS

**Terrace Park Elementary School** - clock from 2nd floor principal's office, bell, ceiling light, framed certificate from 1931 - "First Class Standard Elementary School", framed certificate from 1965 - "Honor Medal", certificate from 1988 - "Ohio Right to Read Week", 2 wood and brass plaques about the earlier renovation of TPES; **Virginia Fenton** - blotter from TP Volunteer Fire Department; **Susan Abernethy Frank** - bowl from TP Swim Club - 1982; **Patricia Matchette** - 9 Memory books from St. Thomas music program; **Roger Hoyer** - 6

pictures of scenes along the Little Miami River during 1916 and 1919; **Bunnie Prost** - picture from 1956 Terrace Park High School Homecoming; Doug Nunn's Terrace Park Fire Department badge, Terrace Park phone directory; **Jane Peterson** - slides taken of the Terrace Park quilt; **Sue Porter** - Book "100 who Made a Difference" by Barry M. Horstman; **Armstrong Chapel, Indian Hill** - Board table; **Cathy Schneider** - historical costumes from the house at 725 Indian Hill (now 723) and old pictures of 725 Indian Hill.

## LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS CONTINUE TO GROW!

Terrace Park Historical Society would like to extend a big thank you to new Lifetime Members Betsy and Bill Holloway! Not only was Betsy a founding member of the Historical Society, she continues to volunteer weekly in the TPHS archives. Both Betsy and Bill have served on past boards and continue to offer us guidance as Emeritus Members. This is just another way this wonderful couple continues to show us their support! We are hoping to meet our goal of 50 Lifetime Members by our 10th Birthday Party this Fall. Please consider making your pledge during this very special year!

## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... TPHS GALLERY

*continued from page 1*

remember TPHS when you're packing up too as we rely on the generosity of the public to find pieces to share.

While we won't be celebrating



*Erin Rosson*

our new Gallery under a circus big top, we will have a circus pole from Terrace Park's very own Robinson circus on display as well as several circus costumes too. So step right up and join us as we celebrate on the 30th - no tickets needed, just smiles!

# DOT RIXEY RECOLLECTION

Below are some excerpts from John Diehl's oral history transcript with Mrs. Eppa Rixey (Dorothy "Dot" Meyers Rixey) on April 8, 1989. Dorothy was born in Terrace Park and lived here most of her life. The entire transcript will be available soon on [www.tphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.tphistoricalsociety.org).

## **Do you remember much about the Robinson Circus business?**

They let us out of school the day Tillie died. In the old days, down there in that hollow, between Robinson's house and Wooster Pike you could ride the elephants.

## **Were the barns down there?**

No, the barns were always back of the house. I can remember Eppa and I took our children when they were little tiny things down to see the elephants. And young Eppa wanted to ride and they said if you bring him on Sunday you can take him and ride and so we did. He loved it. Tillie got sick and we went down there one Sunday and old...John Robinson was there and he was a good friend of my husband and he said come on and watch me give him a pint of whiskey. And you know it was prohibition then...and he brought out a pint of whiskey and he poured it down that elephant's throat...the elephant just lapped it up but it died the next day.

## **Was that Tillie?**

That was Tillie. And they had a cistern way on the back of the property down there and we were all let out of school that day to go down to watch them bury Tillie in the cistern. And they cut off one of Tillie's feet and Mr. Robinson had an umbrella stand made out of it. John Robinson was a fine fellow. His father was an old reprobate. And he married his nurse and she'd get on the train with a water bottle...glass water bottle because he might want a drink on the way to town.

## **ON HER HUSBAND BASEBALL HALL OF FAMER EPPA RIXEY:**

You lived in Terrace Park while he was in his heyday in baseball, right?

Oh, yes. Well, we lived...we rented an apartment on Madison Road and we lived there...we were married in



**Dot Rixey throws out the first ball in the hair-raising finale of the National League playoff, won by the Reds in 1976.**

October and we got back there in December 1924. We went to Cuba...went to New York and saw some shows.

## **On your honeymoon?**

Went on a boat to Cuba and he played golf down there and then we came back to New Orleans. We didn't get back to December and then he decided he was going to play ball again. Well, I had no idea he would ever play ball again. I don't think my mother and father would have let me marry him if they knew he was going to play ball again.

## **He was really big time.**

Well, believe it or not he had a Masters degree in Latin. He went to the University of Virginia. And the thing of it was most of those fellows on the team had had three years of schooling. And I said to Eppa how can you stand it and he said there's just as many good ones as there are bad. And they all liked him.

## **You said Eppa had his degree in Latin from the University of Virginia. Did he ever think about teaching?**

Oh yes, he did teach at the Episcopal High School for boys for one year. His sister, who didn't know a damn thing about Latin went and took his minutes

for him when the baseball season ended too late for school. I think school started in September and the season didn't end till October or something and anyway she would go and she would write down all this stuff and she didn't know one damn thing about

what it meant.

## **ON CHARLES MEURER:**

## **Did you know Charlie Meurer, the Terrace Park artist?**

Sure.

## **What sort of person was he?**

Well, he was real German and he had a German wife and his older daughter spoke kind of broken English. They lived at the very end of Miami and Stanton, on the corner. They had four children.

## **Did he have a studio of some kind? Is that where he did his painting?**

Oh yes, he painted in his home/studio and every once in a while he rode the streetcar. I can remember one time sitting next to him on the streetcar and he asked me more questions about Terrace Park and I said I can't answer all these questions and he said no but your mother and father can. My parents were from Terrace Park too.

## CIRCUS TRICKS! DID YOU KNOW?

- In the early 1900's the largest and most popular touring spectacle was the John Robinson Circus.

- A bank panic in 1916 caused John Robinson to sell out to Ringling Brothers but Robinson kept four of his oldest elephants: Clara, Tillie, Tony and Old Pitt on his Terrace Park property which had always served as their winter quarters.

- John G. Robinson died 1921, but his widow also kept the elephants for some years at the Terrace Park headquarters. One by one they died, and in the end, the last one, Old Pitt, was sold to Cole Brothers Circus.

- John G. Robinson had a particular fondness for Tillie. Stories say that he taught her to call him "Papa". Whenever she wanted him, she would call out his name, and he would come running. It is said that Tillie called out, "Papa", right before she died at the ripe old age of one hundred and twenty.

- Tillie's funeral was a civic event, involving the entire village. School was cancelled, and the children staged a pageant. A private plane dropped flowers from overhead, and the Cincinnati Enquirer carried a full obituary. Tillie's remaining elephant friends, Tony, Pit, and Clara, fired a military salute with the canons from their act.

- Information from Erin Purcell's *John Robinson's Circus of Terrace Park, Ohio, Part 1 and Part 2*. Erin is the granddaughter of Lynn and Al Nelson, Lifetime Members of TPHS. Soon her essay in its entirety can be seen on the TPHS webpage, complete with many photos.

# TRACKER

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www.tphistoricalsociety.org

info@tphistoricalsociety.org

## TP HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS 2011

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