

TRACKER



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SAVE THE DATE

March 3, 2013

"Treasures of Terrace Park"
 Mark your calendars for our upcoming program on Sunday. Social 3:30 p.m. and program begins at 4:00 p.m. We will be meeting at the Terrace Park Elementary School. Parking lot off of Myrtle. Free and open to the public. **April 28, 2013 next program TBA**

"TREASURES OF TERRACE PARK" PROGRAM TO RETURN

On Sunday, March 3, the Terrace Park Historical Society will be presenting "Treasures of Terrace Park" at the Terrace Park Elementary School. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 and the program will begin at 4:00 and last about an hour. Note: The entrance to the school is now located on Myrtle Avenue. There are lots of parking places and the school is very accessible.

The program will feature three of Terrace Park's historic landmarks. Lynne Mileham and Patti Normile will be talking about the old post office and the Terrace Park Market, which were located next to each other on the corner of Terrace Place and Harvard, and were among the earliest Village buildings.

The original Terrace Park post office occupied a house at 411 Terrace Place, built around 1886 as part of the J.W. Sibley subdivision. The first owner, Harriet Gegner, served as the first postmaster of Terrace Park and also kept a store on the property from 1891 until 1903. For a short while, the Village Council met on the second floor of her house.

During the next few years the post office had several postmasters and locations until 1925 when Lillian Droscher held the post for the next 25 years, living in



Old TP Post Office



Raised house on Edgewater

the rear of the house while running the post office and store in the front.

In 1903, the Village Council voted to build a Town Hall on the corner of Terrace Place

and Harvard, adjacent to Harriet Gegner's house, at 415 Terrace Place. The Village used the upstairs as a Town Hall, council chambers and *(continued on page 2)*

THANK YOU TO ALL 271 PAID MEMBERS!

Your dues help sustain our programs and allow us to continue to bring Terrace Park's history to life. The Terrace Park Historical

Society is a registered 501(c)3 organization and your dues are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Dear Members,

With the holidays over and spring coming quickly, Mary and I are excited for the upcoming events with TPHS. Our first program of the year will be a great chance to learn more about the village market that served Terrace Park for decades as well as Edgewater Drive, a little known street that started as a river camp and thrives today as one of the most peaceful and protected lanes in the village. As spring approaches, remember that it presents some of the most beautiful days in Terrace Park. Be sure to see the Miami Grove Nature Preserve as the daffodils come up and the yellow wildflowers blanket the woods. There's a reason the people who called the area home have such beautiful recollections of nature in "the grove", so take a walk down there and see it for yourself this Spring. From the day when wealthy Cincinnatians came to Miami Grove to summer on the Little Miami to later years when it was the permanent home to many Terrace Park families. Though few landmarks remain today, the history of Miami Grove is an interesting and important chapter in village history. We want to remind everyone that as you clean out attics and basements this spring, think of TPHS for any items you come across that pertain to life here through the years. Even if you think it is insignificant- donate it to us instead of tossing it! We are always looking to enhance our archives with your donations.

Steve

"TREASURES OF TERRACE PARK" PROGRAM TO RETURN

(continued from page 1)

polling place and the lower level was rented to Lucius Conkling, who kept a grocery store and for a time, also the village post office. The building was also used as a community center where dances could be held. After the Village began using the Community House on Elm Avenue in 1925, the building housed a grocery store which was in continual operation under various owners until 1980, when it was sold to Kennedy Associates for offices.

During an Ohio Historic Inventory in 1980, the original post office building was considered eligible to be on the National Register, but it was demolished in and replaced by the brick building that currently houses



Terrace Park Market

Graduate Services at 411 Terrace Place. The current post office was built in 1953 on land next door to the original.

Jeff Megowen will be presenting our third landmark, the Edgewater community, which lies on the banks of the Little Miami River at the south end of Miami Avenue. Originally the

property of Michael Turner Leaf, it became the home of several successive summer and recreational clubs and was a popular vacation spot, with cottages built on stilts to withstand flooding of the river. Many of the homes have been demolished and replaced, but there are several structures that retain the original style.

NOTES FROM THE GALLERY /MUSEUM.... AND NOW WE HAVE A CIRCUS TRAIN!

John Johnson of the Cincinnati Enquirer on Sunday, January 13 wrote a feature "When Elephants Walked the Streets of Terrace Park"....And then it all happened:

Many visitors came the following Thursday and continue to come. Many have stories to tell and/or memorabilia donate.

Fran Verkamp called us to tell about her visit to Tillie's funeral when she was a child. She remembers that Tillie's head was above ground and the body buried underneath in a cistern. She said the children threw white flowers on Tillie's head before the ceremony.

Marcia Grant came from Harrison and brought photos



and newspaper clipping of her great aunt Mabel "Belle" Reed

who was a famous stunt rider *(continued on page 4)*

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS NOW UP TO 58!

Since the last Tracker (Fall 2012) we have not only increased general memberships but we have added more 5 Lifetime Memberships:

Holly and Adam Bortz and Family

Roseann and Bill Hayes and Family
In Memory of Ralph RJ Vilardo
Mickey and Jack Forbes
Kathy Gundlach

LETTER/MEMOIR FROM A FORMER MAYOR..

In 1995, John Jordan, was a resident of 501 Miami Avenue from 1943 to 1964 with his wife Clara. This home faces the river...with the BACK door being on the street. It was a previous summer cottage that was converted to a year 'round home around 1906. He was the mayor of Terrace Park from 1960-63 and a member of the Terrace Park School Board of Education. Clara Jordon was president of the Garden Club from 1960-62.

Mr. Jordan's letter was in response to a request from Bill "Tiger" Kite, who was then living at 501 Miami Avenue, had asked Mr. Jordan for some history of the home and their years in TP. The Jordan children Jack, Steve, Tom and Marianne all graduated from Terrace Park High School.

The following are excerpts from that letter:

"Mrs. Jordan, our four children, and myself moved to

Terrace Park from Cincinnati in the spring of 1943. ...

There was a combined grocery and Post Office next to the Village Green. Residents went there to get their mail and meet their friends. (Currently the Kennedy Associates Office building)...

The adjacent house to ours to the South, was occupied by Walter Daw, his wife and three children. The house to the North was Mr. & Mrs. Scallan (Scallan Supply). He died shortly after our arrival, but Mrs. Scallan, who lived to be 100 years of age lived there during our entire stay in T. P. Across the street, was the Gatchell home. He was an invalid and enjoyed watching the small children at play on his lawn. A home was later built on the lawn and was occupied by King Harrison, a friend of our three boys. He later bought our home, and we moved to Indian Hill. Frankly, I

liked Terrace Park better.

Walter Daw later became Mayor, sometime prior to my own term (Jan. 1, 1960-Dec. 31, 1963). The long time Mayor was Carl Lindell who was Mayor when we arrived, and after we departed. His home, in the flat area north of the village was very old and had a long history.

501 Miami, when we arrived, was painted off-black by its owner Mary Finch, in memory of her late husband who died in the house. After a number of repaintings we succeeded in converting it to green which we thought more acceptable. One of the housepainter was a Fred Huber who told me that he had worked in Austria as a housepainter with Adolf Hitler (Schikelgruber) .

The Gatchell home was later occupied by John Smale and his family. He later became Chairman of Procter & Gamble--the second resident

of T.P. to do so. I believe he is now Chairman of General Motors. I frequently picked him up while waiting for the bus and drove him to town. There was nothing to indicate that he was unusual.

Terrace Park was a wonderful place, particularly for small children and we enjoyed it very much. We had four children--three boys and a girl. The oldest boy died in July of this year. The other 2 boys live in the East and our daughter Marianne, lives in Santa Teresa NM about ten miles away.

Mrs. Jordan is in tertiary stage of Alzheimer's disease..... It is a shame as she was, until recently, a beautiful, graceful, and active woman with a youthful appearance..."

Mr. Jordan was living in El Paso Texas at the time of this letter. The letter in its entirety is in the archives.



Left to right: Mrs. McDonald, Mr. Heil, Mr. Lloyd (President), Mr. Haveman (Cleak), Mr. Strollmaier, Mr. Jordan, standing Mr. Herron.-

DID YOU KNOW?

The Terrace Park Lumber Co., founded in 1913 occupied what is now Denison Lane for more than 70 years?

Mail came early to Terrace Park...with the first post office functioning on May 14, 1804?

This first post office was presumably on or near what is now the Miami Grove Nature Preserve?

(The entire area was the center of farms and many business enterprises of John Smith, the first of two US senators from Terrace Park.)

TRACKER

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NOTES FROM THE GALLERY /MUSEUM.... AND NOW WE HAVE A CIRCUS TRAIN!

(continued from page 2)

with the Robinson Circus. She rode a horse through a hoop of fire. Her "name stood out on billboards all over the country as well as the West Indies."

George McIlveen arrived offering to make a model copy of the Robinson Circus train.... and in 3 weeks he did just that! It is now on display in the TPHS Gallery/Museum. (See photos) McIlveen worked for the Enquirer for 41 years but has been a model train, circus, railroad and Civil War buff for years.

He had so many stories to tell about the Robinson Circus that we will be doing an oral history interview with him. Once transcribed, it will be available in the Archive. He has photos of the beautiful and highly decorated Robinson circus cars which he used to create the models.

Please come and visit the Gallery/Museum and see all of the new items in our collection.

