

# TRACKER



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## TERRACE PARK FAMILY OPENS THEIR HOME FOR THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH!

This year, we are delighted to announce that our Annual Holiday Brunch will be held right here in Terrace Park. Lifetime members Adam and Holly Bortz have generously offered to host the Brunch at their beautiful home at 303 Rugby Avenue in Terrace Park, on December 8 from 12 pm to 2 pm.

The event will be free and is open to all of our current and newly solicited members. (Hurry and send in your membership forms!)

Reservations are required. Please RSVP: (513) 248-1777 or [info@TPHistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@TPHistoricalsociety.org).

Along with the festivities, our President, Mary



(l-r) Holly Bortz with children Connor, Braden, Janie, Caitlin and cousin Sydney.

Arkeilpane, will conduct the brief Annual Meeting with

a financial report from our Treasurer, Maryanne Berger.

## FROM THE GALLERY: CHARLES A. MEURER

The TP Gallery/Museum was fortunate to receive a donation of a Charles Meurer painting to add to all the other wonderful paintings, books, photographs, etc. which make up our collection.

Charles Meurer was a nationally known artist who lived in Terrace Park from 1906 until 1954, and built several houses for family members on Miami Avenue.

He was best known for his use of "trompe l'oeil" style (French for "deceive the eye"), a kind of realism that made two-dimensional

images appear to be three dimensional. One of his paintings, "My Passport", depicted money so realistically that the Secret Service confiscated it until he agreed to paint red lines of cancellation on the bills.

His works also included military and hunting scenes and landscapes. Another of his paintings, "The Little Miami below Terrace Park" shows a scene on the banks of the Little Miami River in what is now the Terrace Park Nature Preserve. Another **(continued on page 2)**



"A Doughboy's Equipment" by Charles Meurer (Butler Inst. of American Art)

## SAVE THE DATE

### Annual Holiday Brunch for Members

**Date:** December 8, 2013

**Time:** 12 pm to 2 pm

**Location:** Home of Adam and Holly Bortz, 303 Rugby Avenue

Reservations required

**RSVP:** (513) 248-1777 or [info@TPHistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@TPHistoricalsociety.org).

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

This is a beautiful time to be in Terrace Park. The colors of the maple trees have been especially radiant this fall and remind us of the many seasons that have come and gone in the long history of our village.



As we finish with the old year, we are looking forward to some exciting activities in the year to come. We have several programs already planned, including a presentation by George McIlveen, circus enthusiast and model maker. Other programs will feature some of our "Terrace Park Treasures", those people, places and events that make our village unique.

This is also the time of year when we begin to plan our most visible activity, the biennial House Tour, which will take place in the fall of 2014. We will be seeking homes to feature, as well as volunteers to organize and participate. If you would like to be involved with Terrace Park history, and to have some fun, consider signing up to help out with the House Tour. Please contact us at (513) 248-1777 or info@TPHistoricalsociety.org.

As we finish our annual membership drive, we would like to express our thanks for your generous donations over the years and hope that you will continue to find our programs and activities to be a worthwhile investment in preserving the history and traditions of Terrace Park.

We look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Brunch.

Mary

# FROM THE ARCHIVES: STEPHANIE BROWN JONES

Excerpts from the oral history interview of Stephanie Brown Jones, April 30, 2013, done by Louise Cottrell. Stephanie is the daughter of Eliza Eveland Brown, and she and her husband John currently live on Princeton Avenue in Terrace Park. The complete transcript can be seen in our Archives.

"My name is Stephanie Jones. I grew up here in Terrace Park. I was born in 1952 in Cincinnati and I've always lived in Terrace Park other than the four years that I was away at college. Got married when I graduated from college in 1974 and we rented a house on Wooster Pike in Terrace Park and then five years later built the house that we now reside in. We've been very happy living in the village.

My parents were Bruce and Eliza Brown. They got married on December 20, 1941. My mother grew up in Terrace Park. Her parents were Miles and Penelope Eveland and my grandfather's family owned and operated the Terrace Park Lumber Company. The lumber yard was located on what is now Denison Lane.

Miles F. Eveland, my maternal grandfather, was born July 20, 1871. Penelope Lever Eveland was born April 20, 1886. They also took up residency in Terrace Park and raised their two daughters, my mother, Eliza Jane and her sister, also named Penelope." **So, where did you live when you were growing up?**

"We lived at 734 Park Avenue, and that house was built by my grandfather."

**Some early childhood memories?**

"I think the early childhood memories I had while growing up in Terrace Park were just always being outside, playing with the neighbors' kids until my mother would have to beg me to come in at night. You know, we were just all over the neighborhood, climbing trees. I was kind of a tomboy and we just had so much fun. Rode my bicycle or walked to school every day. Came home for lunch most days. I always thought that was how everyone grew up. I just really enjoyed growing up in Terrace Park. My parents had lots of friends. I got to know those friends and we played with their children and



(r-l) Miles Eveland with daughter Eliza Jane and father George Eveland

babysat their children." **Do you know any stories about how your family first came to the U.S. or where they settled down and how they made their living?** *(continued on page 3)*

# FROM THE GALLERY: CHARLES A. MEURER

*(continued from page 1)*

shows a view of the house belonging to one of our TPHP Board members, Tina Hesser.



Charles Meurer painting in TPHP Gallery/Museum

Many of Meurer's works are displayed at the Cincinnati

Art Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Butler Art Institute, which puts our Gallery/Museum in excellent company!

Virginia Rawnsley Fenton and Bill Fenton (both raised in Terrace Park and graduates of Terrace Park High School) were given the Meurer painting as a wedding present in 1953 from

Dr. and Mrs. Ray Stoecklin, who lived across the street from Meurer *(continued on page 4)*

# ORIGIN OF OUR VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

The Christmas of 1988 was a special one for Terrace Park. Two of our most popular village traditions had their origins that year and have continued to the present day.

It all started with two young mothers, Grace Holmes and Tina Hesser, who wanted to create a memorable holiday event for their children and for the village.

Having learned that long ago, there was a Christmas tree lighting on the Village Green, Grace was inspired to bring the tradition back. Tina admired the lighting of luminarias in Mt. Lookout, and as Kindervelt president, decided to bring the custom to Terrace Park.

Many area businesses donated funds and by the time Grace approached the Village Council, there was already \$400.00 in the fund. Grace got a deal on the lights from a store in Amelia, and arranged for the Davy Tree Company to put them on the tree. Fortunately there was a short electric pole close by and a household extension cord was used to connect the

lights to the power.

Tina arranged for a truckload of sand to be delivered to the Log Cabin parking lot, where volunteers from Terrace Park Kindervelt 76 put together the luminaria kits, complete with paper bags and candles, and sold them door to door as a fund raiser for Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

According to the Village Views, "a thousand Christmas tree bulbs burst into light and candles glowed throughout the village on the night of Dec 11, as the Christmas tree on the Village Green was lit after being dark for years and villagers took part in the community's first Luminaria." Members of the Terrace Park Pops band played Christmas carols while two horses provided hay rides around the village and Mariemont students provided refreshments. Even though the night was so cold that "the spit froze in the valves" of the horn players, a new tradition was established.

A few years later, when the gazebo was built on the Village Green, another

tradition was added – a visit from Santa Claus, arriving in a fire truck. The Brownie troop sold hot chocolate, and there was always Christmas music to set the scene, although Grace remembers having to climb underneath the gazebo to turn on the sound system.

Residents have come to look forward to this event as a sure sign that Christmas is just around the corner.



Tree Lighting on Village Green, December 11, 1988

## FROM THE ARCHIVES: STEPHANIE BROWN JONES

(continued from page 2)

"My mother's ancestors were English and Welsh.... My mother was raised in Terrace Park and graduated from Terrace Park High School in 1938. My mother's grandfather, George H. Eveland, bought the Terrace Park Lumber Company around 1914. It was a family run business for three generations."

**How have things changed over the years?**

"Oh my, a lot. A lot. One thing I'm used to is that change is constant and you just have to embrace it.... old houses being torn down and new houses being built. But that's alright. That's how it goes, and I think we've improved with the new school. I think the elementary school was a fantastic, fantastic improvement. I am real pleased that was done as well

as it was... the expansion of St. Thomas Church... nothing stays the same. I'm glad that they kept some things.

The Labor Day Festival used to be one nice festival. You would start at ten o'clock in the morning with the parade. You'd have those games going all day long. You had bingo, you had brats and metts and they had a beer garden at that time, so the adults would stay around. And then at night, there was a dance in the street. One time they raffled off a car and a friend of my parents won it and they gave it to the minister of St. Thomas Church. Now that's changed a lot. I think it is because they can't have gambling anymore. I think you have to have a license now to do bingo. A lot of the fun things that I grew up with are nonexistent anymore, and that's sad."

### DID YOU KNOW...

...that underneath the John Smith stone/plaque at the corner of Elm and Ford Road is a time capsule containing mementos of Terrace Park during the 1976 bicentennial celebration? (Hmmm...wonder what is in there?)

...that Tillie the elephant (of Robinson Circus fame) was a remarkable animal, not only being able to stand on her head, but also being

the herd disciplinarian and teaching routines to the younger elephants?

....that according to Karl Maslowski, noted naturalist, the white squirrels of Terrace Park are a breed apart and not merely an albino version of the common squirrel? (How special can you get?)

• all the above information is from Ellis Rawnsley's book, *A Place Called Terrace Park*

# TRACKER

P. O. Box 3  
Terrace Park, OH 45174  
513.248.1777  
www.tphistoricalsociety.org  
info@tphistoricalsociety.org

**TPHS Headquarters**  
100 Miami Avenue  
**Open:** Thursdays 12 to 3 pm

**Officers:**

President - Mary Arkeilpane  
Secretary - Sandy Koehler  
Treasurer - Mary Anne Berger

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Eric Marshall

**Tracker**

Editor - Susan Rodgers  
Designer - Ann Englehart  
Printing - Gregg MacMillan  
of TechneGraphics

## FROM THE GALLERY: CHARLES A. MEURER

*(continued from page 2)*

on Miami Avenue. Bill Fenton is deceased but Virginia lives in Lansing New York. She is the daughter of Ellis Rawnsley (author of A Place Called Terrace Park) and his wife Bonnie.



Charles Meurer painting of Hesser home in Terrace Park

VISIT THE TP CREATIVES GALLERY AND SEE MORE WORKS OF OUR TALENTED RESIDENTS AND FORMER RESIDENTS!



"My Passport" by Charles Meurer (Private collection)