



ViewPoints



February 2009

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AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Society Members,

After a bitter, snowy and icy winter, I believe we are nearing my favorite season. Spring is such a beautiful green time of re-birth and I love all the early flowers that accompany it.

The Board has been busy with all its usual activities of keeping the website up to date, collecting donations and keeping our cataloged collections and room in order. Our liasons for school and city have also been keeping the other board members up to date on anything new.

We continue to be a presence at any public event possible to make our membership available, as well as selling publications and our playing cards. We had a terrific amount of sales at the library for Christmas! Our thanks to Ruthanne James for hand wrapping all those decks of cards in holiday paper.

Our newest current event will be held in conjunction with the Grandview Library on February 19th. The program will be a virtual tour and will be conducted by Tom DeMaria and Wayne Carlson. We hope you will be able to attend. Our last two events were very well attended.

The board was also very saddened by the horrific Kingswood Building fire and its destruction on the east side of Grandview Avenue North of Third. While the building itself wasn't on the National Register like the Bank Block, it certainly has changed our little historic downtown. We hope it makes a big comeback in the near future.

Finally, the Board mourns the loss of Lorna "Skip" Karlovec. Skip has been a presence in the historical society for many years. Although research was her main interest, she helped with many other projects, including home tours. Skip requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Society. We thank the Karlovec and Cassasanta families for honoring her request. We hope to put any funds towards a worthwhile and lasting project in her memory.

As always, feel free to email me with questions or comments at tliberat@wowway.com.

Sincerely,

Tracy Liberatore, President
614-488-0425 tliberat@wowway.com

5000 Panhandlers in Marble Cliff

Ohio State Journal

Columbus, Ohio, August 3, 1890.

PICNIC OF THE PANS

A Day at Marble Cliff and How It Was Enjoyed by Five Thousand People

Annual Outing Given by the Panhandle Railroad Company to its Columbus Employees

Editor's Note: To picture this event requires us to imagine the neighborhood of West Fifth Avenue and Dublin Road without any modern developments. North of Fifth Avenue was the large Miller Farm, Arlington Place (which became the Village of Marble Cliff in 1901) had been platted the year before and three Victorian homes built for the Price-Griswold families. The railroad was there, curving across the Scioto, with a railroad spur and Scioto Depot at the First Community Village site. Working quarries lined the east bank of the river north and south of the railroad river crossing, and south of the railroad crossing on the west bank. The neighborhood had been commonly referred to as Marble Cliff for perhaps fifty years, because of the cliffs of exposed Columbus limestone along the east bank of the Scioto.

An Ohio State Journal article had announced the coming event on Thursday, July 31, 1890: "The 1000 employees of the Panhandle railroad shops and their families will have an outing at Marble Cliff, west of the city, on the Chicago, St. Louis and Pittsburgh railroad, Saturday. For several weeks the various committees have been busy with preparations for the event. All kinds of amusement will be provided. The Fourteenth Regiment band and Elliot's orchestra (colored) will furnish music. A dancing platform 50 x 80 is to be erected. There will

(Continued on page 2)

This issue sponsored

IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA PADDOCK TODD



5000 PANHANDLERS IN MARBLE CLIFF

(Continued from page 1)

be excellent boating on the river. A special train will leave the shops at 7:30 a.m. for the accommodation of those in that part of the city."

A long list describing planned events and listing committee members followed. Of particular interest to us is the listing of Master of Ceremonies—S. P. Bush.

Young New Jersey native Samuel Prescott Bush had arrived in Columbus in 1887 as a draughtsman for the railroad, not long after his graduation from Stevens Institute of Technology on Long Island, where he had been a member of the baseball and football teams.

The August 3 OSJ carried a follow-up article, headlined above, with much detail about the athletic events, contests, food, and dance of Saturday, August 2.

"The anticipations of the generous Panhandle management were realized yesterday in an emphatic manner, and it is hardly possible to picture a more complete success than the annual picnic given the Columbus employees of that road at Marble Cliff. Excessive heat and the country dust that comes from a season without rain were all that interfered in any way with the pleasure of the 5000 people who patronized the hospitality of the road. As the Panhandle management had nothing to do with the weather or the dust the people declined to express dissatisfaction, and all were thoroughly pleased with the event in every detail. It was an event intended to intensify the pleasant relations that exist between the company and its Columbus employees, and the relations were suggested by the presence and participation of several prominent officials. These gentlemen were kept always busy looking at babies entered for the baby show, distributing the prizes, and doing other valuable assistance that suggested itself as the day wore into evening. It was one of the most thoroughly satisfied and happy crowds that has ever gone out of the city, and the extremely large attendance indicates the fact that the employees fully appreciate the kindness of the road."

The first train left the yards for Marble Cliff at 7:35 a.m. with twenty-four well-filled coaches. "It was a handsome train, the engine decorated in every available place with artistic arrangements of bunting and evergreen, and above the "cowcatcher" a steel engraving of Mr. George B. Roberts, president of the company. It took four trips and fifty-six coaches to get the people to Marble Cliff, but the crowd was successfully handled without an accident reported.

A little known fact about S. P. Bush's early years in Columbus is that in 1892 he served a volunteer assistant coach of Ohio State University football. He married Flora Sheldon in 1894 and built his Marble Cliff mansion in 1908.



Photo from: undated Stevens Institute football team group photograph

The picnic grounds are beautiful for situation, nature having spread the earth and arranged the foliage with a taste that art could not imitate. Undulating and sometimes abrupt hills vie with the glens in beauty, and so rugged is nature at the cliffs that all forms of loveliness are there. Yesterday the crags and chasms, the hills and valleys rose and shone in the countenance of a warm sun, and pretty figures in pink and white dotted the glades and aided nature's beauty.

Through the wood and down a hill is a valley, level except for sometimes dry gullies and to the left, under the hill, is a spacious dance platform, which was used without interruption all day in spite of excess of heat and disposition to perspire. farther up the valley is the cliff, a picturesque freak that afforded much interest."

We close with a few more brief excerpts:

"A football game was scheduled to close the program, but the ball was lost."

"There were a great many people there who were not Panhandlers. They went out in the regular trains and in buggies. The Panhandle police did good work in loading and unloading the coaches and keeping the children out of harm's way on the grounds."

The account of the day ends with this paragraph:

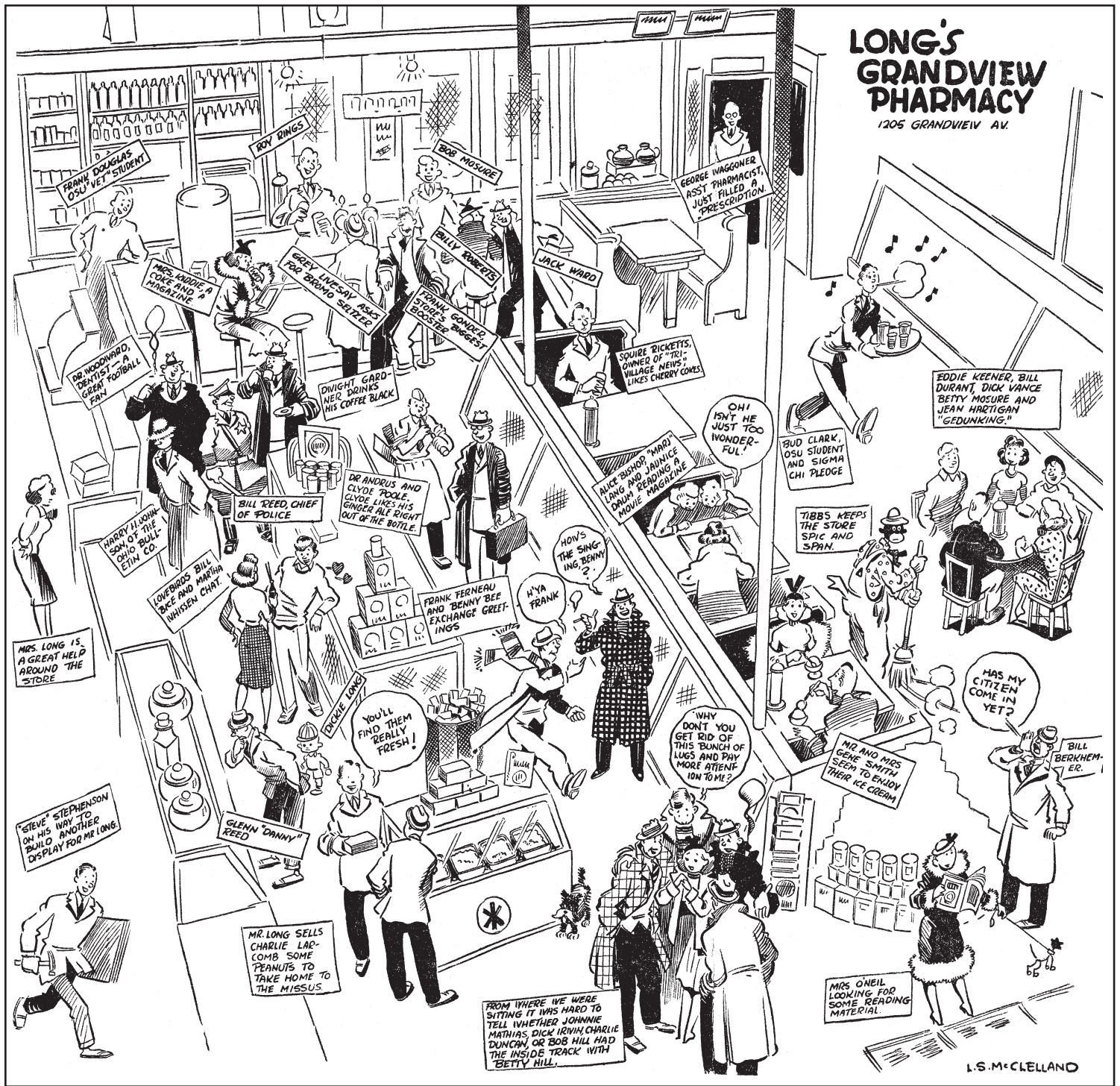
"Mr. S. P. Bush and his negligé shirt and cap were everywhere at the same time. Mr. Bush umpired the ball game, arranged the entries in the contests and did a good deal of everything, and yet nobody enjoyed the day better than he."

Editors note: A negligé shirt was a flannel shirt with a three-button placket front, considered very casual in 1890.

UPDATE

Grandview Heights City Council has been presented with a draft of architectural design guidelines for the city, developed over the past year by Benjamin D. Rickey & Co., a historic preservation consulting firm, who worked with a steering committee of residents. The complete draft version of the guidelines can be viewed on the city's website: www.grandviewheights.org. Residents are encouraged to take a look and give their input.

The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society sadly marks the passing of Lorna "Skip" Karlovec, 83, on January 23, 2009. Mrs. Karlovec was a "Trustee Emerita" of the society and a major contributor to its work from the Society's earliest years. Well-known in the community for her commitment to school, sports, municipal, and church activities, "Skip" was deeply involved in researching and writing the GH/MCHS publications *Italian Heritage* and *Final Salute*, as well as being the creator of the Grandview Heights Timeline, which hangs in the atrium of the Grandview Heights Public Library.



This cartoon of Long's Drugstore appeared in the Columbus Citizen on October 28, 1937. The paper's cartoonist, Leland S. McClelland, had a long career as a well-known Columbus water colorist and teacher at the Columbus College of Art and Design. McClelland got the address wrong; Long's was at 1275-1277 Grandview Avenue, in the Bank Block. The location is now Stauff's and the "breezeway," which took part of the pharmacy space when it was cut through to provide access to parking. Older Grandview-ites should recognize the names of some of those pictured in the cartoon.



BECOME A MEMBER

of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society!

Please complete the information below and send with your check made out to: **GH/MC Historical Society**
Mail or drop off at the **Grandview Heights Library,**
1685 West First Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212

NAME _____

SPOUSE (IF COUPLE MEMBERSHIP) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please check the appropriate membership box:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP
YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1-SEPT. 30)	ONE-TIME PAYMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$500.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000.00



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Contact Editor Patrick Mooney
 (614-225-0130) for any interesting article
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E-MAIL REQUEST

We are compiling e-mail addresses to improve our communications.

Please include your e-mail on membership renewal form, or e-mail

President Tracy Liberatore at:
tliberat@wowway.com.

Thanks!

Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society's **Virtual Home Tour**

Thursday, February 19, 2009

7:00 p.m.

**Grandview Heights
 Public Library**

Historical Society trustees
 Wayne Carlson and Tom DeMaria
 take you on basement-to-attic
 tours of the 100-year-old
 Grandview/Marble Cliff estates
 of Eugene Grey, Jr. &
 Samuel P. Bush

*Plan to come early!
 Last year's version drew a
 packed house.*

**The Grandview
 Heights/Marble Cliff
 Historical Society**

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE
 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

