

ViewPoints



WINTER, 2000

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

TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY HELPS TO PRESERVE

THE PAST

There are two main parts of the mission of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society: to discover and preserve materials related to the historic legacy of the community, *and* to make this material available to those who are interested in or want to learn about the historic record of the area. The Board of the Society is making a conscious effort to fulfill these responsibilities, and to do so using the emerging technology that has become so common place. The Society has developed a web site (<http://www.ghpl.lib.oh.us/ghmchistorical>) that provides a storage archive as well as a distribution site for this information. An ultimate goal is to organize and document all of the resources and collections of the society and to convert those that are appropriate to a digital form to be stored and disseminated using this site. To this end, I would like to describe several recent activities of the Board related to technology:

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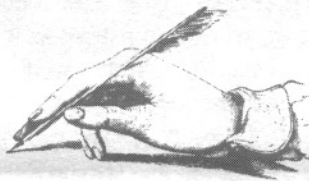
1100 BROADVIEW AVENUE

COLLECTION OF HOWELL-BYRNE HOME PHOTOGRAPHS ADDED TO OUR ARCHIVES

Laura and Tom Byrne, the current owners of the historic, circa 1910 Arts and Crafts-style home located at 1100 Broadview Avenue, received a surprise visit from Judith Fisher Uhl that culminated in a gift of early photographs. Judith's great aunt and uncle, Adrienne and Alfred Howell, built the home. It is one of four Howell properties in the area, a portion of which were eventually developed into Broadview Terrace. Judith Uhl, currently a resident of Sardis, Mississippi, was only an infant when she lived with her family at her

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello, out there!

Another "Happy New Year" wish for you! Guess we have all reached the realization, by now, that everything is A-OK with Y2K. This very special year of 2000 holds much promise for us in the world at this time. There is much to be proud of and there is much yet to do.

We on the Board hope you have enjoyed our increased communication with you through the newsletter and the web site. We have enjoyed hearing from you, both longtime and new members. Some of you became life members as long as 25 years ago, and some as recently as Christmas, 1999. How gratifying is your support!

Please keep your comments, requests, suggestions, and memberships coming. Thanks for your recent recognition that Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society memberships make memorable gifts!

On with the year, and keep the past ever present!

Sincerely,
Win Keller, President
GHMCHS

This is also an opportunity to recognize all our life members, some of long standing, and others, newer to the roster:

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM ARTHUR
ANN & DAMON BAKER
MARY & STEVE BURKEY
VINCENT & BARBARA BARRESI
MRS. THOMAS E. CAVENDISH
MRS. JERI DIEHL CUSACK
MR. & MRS. GRANT DOUGLASS
MR. TOM DEMARIA
MRS. PAUL J. FALCO
ALYN EICKHOLT
MRS. JANETTE GEMEINHARDT
JOHANNA GUZIK

MR. & MRS. JOHN HOGE
MR. & MRS. STAN JONES
MR. & MRS. GAVIN LARRIMER
MRS. LORNA (SKIP) KARLOVEC
MRS. DONALD KELLER
MR. WILLIAM F. KOCH, Jr.
MR. & MRS. ED KOSNIK
ANN LARRICK
MR. & MRS. GAVIN R. LARRIMER
DR. & MRS. JOHN LEACH
MR. & MRS. WILLIAM SWAGER
MRS. HAROLD VOELKER



Preserve the Past (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The web site has been in existence for almost a year and has been visited over 3500 times! The visits to the site come from all over the United States, and in fact, have generated some communications from as far away as England. Some of the more recent additions to the web site can be found by clicking on the "New!" button on the main page. Recent additions include:

- copies of all of the newsletters
- images of almost 100 historic homes, businesses, churches and schools in GH/MC
- recent interior photos of the Voelker house
- a selection of slides from the Fridensteins, from their early historic lectures
- a "walking tour" of the community, in which the visitor can select images and documentation to view
- a scrapbook created by students at Stevenson School in the 1930s

These digitized images are being collected and stored not only on the Web, but also on high resolution CD-ROMs which can be accessed by anyone interested in researching our history by reviewing our resources.

We are working with

the Grandview Heights Public Library to develop a proposal that can help us fund this effort of digitizing the resources, and also to investigate the best method for storage and retrieval of the information.

We need your help in identifying additional images, facts, or other resources that belong in the collection. If you would like to loan us photos or documents for digitizing, or if you would like to donate them to the Society for our collection, we'd be delighted to hear from you. If you would like to volunteer to help us in this immense task of organizing, scanning, documenting or otherwise making these items available online, please contact me at 486-6626. Also, I'd like to mention that any older members of our community who can recall events of historical interest that happened over the years in the Marble Cliff/Grandview area, would be of considerable help to the society through being interviewed by GHMCHS Board Member, Skip Karlovec. These chronicles would help ensure that our significant early days do not become forgotten. Skip may be contacted at 488-4808.

Wayne Carlson

Chair, Technology Committee

A NOTE ABOUT OUR BOARD OFFICERS...

Following the election of Board members at our annual meeting in September, the Board, according to its by-laws, has selected its officers for the 1999-2000 membership year.

*President: WIN KELLER
Vice-President: TRACY LIBERATORE
Secretary: SALLY KOSNIK
Treasurer: JOANN CURRY*

1100 Broadview Avenue (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

grandparent's residence at 1168 Elmwood. Her grandfather, Augustus Frame, built the home at 1168 Elmwood. She visited her aunt at 1100 Broadview frequently as a child and has provided the GHMCHS a wealth of information regarding the early history of the area. Most notable among the photos are interior views of the living and dining rooms with period Arts and Crafts Mission-style furnishings as well as a wide view of the green space now occupied by Broadview Terrace. For more information on early Broadview Avenue visit our web site at: www.glib.lib.oh.us/ghmchistorical/main.html, or see the GHMCHS publication *Preserving a Heritage*. The Uhl photographs are being cataloged and will appear on the web page soon. The GHMCHS welcomes and encourages similar contributions from its members, families, and friends.

GHMCHS Promoting Local History in the District's Elementary Schools and Foundation Gala...

The GHMCHS, in an effort to promote awareness and communication between various sectors in the community, recently appointed advisory board members as liaisons. Tom DeMaria is serving as liaison to the schools and is seeking to expand the society's presence in them. The GHMCHS is providing each child studying Grandview Heights Marble Cliff history with a copy of the society's time line and providing speakers for classroom visits. The virtual walking tour on the GHMCHS web page is also being promoted. The children are periodically in need of long-time residents of the community for interviews. If you are available and would like to be on a list of contacts for an interview by the children, please call Tom at 486-3509.

The GHMCHS also made a significant contribution to this year's Grandview Heights Marble Cliff Education Foundation gala dinner and fundraiser. The theme was "Building on a Grand Past". Tables were decorated with photographs copied from our web site and an expanded version of the 25th Anniversary slide show was available for guests to enjoy. The GHMCHS contribution was graciously acknowledged by Anne Treasure, the event's chair, during her remarks. Throughout the evening, guests were impressed by the slide show. Few had any idea of the existence or quality of our collection. It points to the need for the GHMCHS to continue to expand our efforts to promote the historical society by sharing our collections and archives with the community.

Visit Our New Web Site!

www.ghpl.lib.oh.us/ghmchistorical/main.html

If you are not on-line at home, the reference librarians at Grandview Heights Public Library will show you how to access us at the library.

LAST IN A SERIES OF THREE ARTICLES...

History of the Schools in Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff *by Wayne Carlson*

Private and parochial schools have also played a role in the education of Grandview and Marble Cliff children. The railroad, and after 1901, the streetcar line, made downtown relatively accessible. As more well-to-do families chose to build in the area, some sent their children to private and church-related schools in the city. Some founders of Columbus Academy, for instance, were residents of the Tri-Village area.

Our Lady of Victory Church, which became the first Catholic church in the Northwest in June 1922, opened a school in September, 1922 with 51 students enrolled. By 1923, seven grades were in place with more than 70 students. A new school building, which housed eight grades and a co-ed high school, was added in 1930, and by 1936, total enrollment had grown to 328 students. The high school closed in 1963, and the elementary school closed in 1977.

St. Christopher Church, which serves residents east of Ashland Avenue, was founded in 1947, and its school opened in 1948. In 1979, St. Christopher School became Trinity School, which serves members of St. Christopher, Our Lady of Victory and St. Margaret of Cortona parishes.

Residents of this area, since the 1950s, have sent their high-school-age students to Bishop Watterson High School and later, to Bishop Ready High School. A small number of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff students continue to enroll in private and church-related schools, such as Columbus School for Girls and St. Charles Preparatory School.

In May 1928, the Grandview Heights School District ran out

of money. As a result, the district made a decision to close the schools early that year. A local community group, the Civic Improvement Association, made public charges that district officials were guilty of mismanagement, particularly of the capital budget. Board President C.H. Silbernagel and other officials responded with a public statement in the May 18, 1928 Community News. Reasons for the money shortage were attributed to the phenomenal growth of the community and the student population, and opportune investments in the property north of the high school. In August, the board voted to put a 5-mill levy on the November ballot to recover the debt. The need for this levy was dropped when the Franklin County Commission voted to turn a windfall tax surplus of \$30,000 over to Grandview schools to bail them out.

Although the slope of the growth curve decreased, families continued to move to Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff, and additional facilities were added. In 1930, the designed expansion wings on the North and South ends of Stevenson were added, increasing the number of classrooms in the building to 20 for a total of

40 elementary classrooms throughout the district. The same year, a new addition was added to the west side of the Elementary School and it was renamed as the Thomas A. Edison Elementary School.

The mid- to late-thirties saw enrollment leveling off, and in fact decreasing somewhat. For example, the total number of students in the district fell from 1320 in 1936 to 1239 in 1938.

During this period, federal WPA projects provided funds for renovating and maintaining buildings and grounds, and were used to construct the tennis courts and a ticket building/concession stand at the athletic fields in 1936. The government also promised that if the district were able to provide a payment of \$3000, they would provide additional funds (totaling approximately \$28,000) to construct a stadium on that site. School officials turned to the community, and a successful fund-raising effort guaranteed the down payment. However, as construction was scheduled to begin, officials in Washington sent a letter requiring an increased payment. Dedicated to the success of this effort, the "stadium boosters" fundraising effort continued, and the 1250 seat stadium was completed and dedicated on October 7, 1938. The Bobcats easily defeated Westerville 25-7 in the inaugural game that night. Representatives from schools throughout the state came to tour the stadium

facility during the dedication, which was seen as one of the finest combination facilities of its size around.

In 1957, additional classrooms were added to the South end of the Edison building, and a new gymnasium was added to the High School. The old gym was renovated and is now used only as the auditorium, and the shower rooms now house the board offices. Also in 1957, the board purchased property to the south of Edison to build a playground. It is now the main parking lot of Edison, as the playground was moved to the east side when the district successfully requested the closure of Fairview Avenue in 1995.

The school district decided to include kindergarten services as part of the public schools, and a revolutionary building was constructed on the site of the old Harding School across Fairview from the Edison building. It opened February 6, 1950 with significant media attention from the Columbus and Ohio press. Called the Kindergarten Annex, it was an award-winning design that incorporated furniture and facilities that were built to the needs of the kindergarten student. Door handles were lower, furniture was smaller, lockers were kid-sized, etc. It also had a fully equipped

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THE KINDERGARTEN ANNEX

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 _____

Please check the appropriate membership box:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP
YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1-SEPT. 30)	ONE-TIME PAYMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$500.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000.00

Web site (CONTINUED FROM PAGE

kitchen, which was used for both lunches and morning snacks, and everything was done in "cheerful" colors and styles that were attractive to kids of this age. A large fireplace was located in the hall at the main entrance, which provided a pleasant atmosphere for the 100 students that attended the half-day sessions taught by Mrs. Bloom and Mrs. Castaneda. In 1971, classrooms were added at Stevenson School to accommodate additional kindergarten classes for families on the east side of the district.

Also in 1971, a wing of classrooms was added to the south side of the Edison building, and an addition to the high school was created to hold the

new industrial arts program. In 1993, with support from the community and the Bobcat Boosters, the High School track was upgraded to become one of the best all-weather tracks of its kind in the conference. In 1994, many of the buildings were modified to become more energy efficient through a unique federal lending program. In 1995, a bond issue passed that allowed for renovations to all of the buildings in the Grandview Heights district, additional technology resources for the academic programs, and a new multipurpose facility located at the Edison/middle school complex. This facility houses a gymnasium which can be divided in two, offices and a cafeteria which can be used as a performance and meeting room.

The entire schools article can be found under the "Resources" section of the web site at: www.gbplib.oh.us/gbmc/historical/main.html

Test Your Historical Knowledge!

1. Where and when was Thompson Field, a Tri-Village neighborhood airfield, which offered instruction in aviation, as well as the thrill of sight-seeing flights over the Tri-Village area for the "small price of ten dollars"?
2. Can you name the Grandview lady who was a concert-trained pianist, always traveled by city bus, and was "famous" for never appearing anywhere except in completely mono-colored outfits, from shoes to scarf, hat and jewelry?
3. How many of these former Tri-Village area "gathering places" can you locate? Cenci's, The Explorers, The Flame, Frecker's Lookout House, JoAnne's Chili Bordello, and Stew Harrison's (to name a few!). Can you add any to the list?

ANSWERS WILL BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *VIEWPOINTS*

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Contact Editor Patrick Mooney (279-6665) for any interesting article ideas or to discuss photo contributions.



The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society

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