



ViewPoints



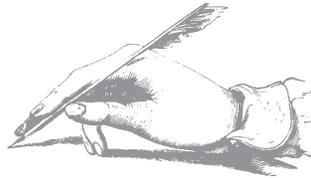
December 2005

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*V*N OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members,

What an exciting Fall it has been! History was made in a big way with our high school sporting events. The high school will be adorned with three new league championship title banners! Among them is the 2005 football team, who won the first outright league title since 1955. What a fun and special time for the community. No doubt most of you read about it in the local papers, but also in the Columbus Dispatch. Bob Hunter wrote an editorial entitled, "Grandview Drops Small Town Look on Football Field." It touched my heart - not only because my son was a senior player on the team, but because it exemplifies the meaning of living in Grandview and Marble Cliff. We are lucky to be reminded of our little "Mayberry" here, and what, I'm sure, it means to all of us.

Society board members attended the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums awards luncheon on October 8 to accept the certificate for our now award-winning newsletter. It was a lovely time, and we had a surprise guest, Grant Douglass, vice-president of the Ohio Historical Society, who spoke briefly about our society and gave us many accolades.

We are pleased to note that copies are now available of our newest publication, *Between the Rivers*, which was heralded in our August newsletter. Board members sold copies at Grandview Heights Public Library on December 11. See page 4 for ordering information. We recommend a copy of this book as a special gift for any season. Society memberships make welcome gifts, also!

At the October board meeting the following slate of officers was offered and accepted: President: Tracy Liberatore; Vice-president: Mary Burkey; Treasurer: Tom DeMaria. It was agreed that responsibility for minutes of meetings will rotate among board members present at each meeting. While Terry Smith is no longer a board member, he has agreed to continue the task of membership chair, in addition to his new post as official society archivist. Thanks, Terry!

As always, I am glad to accept any suggestions or comments our readers may have.

Sincerely,
Tracy Liberatore, President

1926 BOOM YEAR in Grandview/ UPPER ARLINGTON

The following are edited excerpts from a special 14-page section of *The Columbus Dispatch of Sunday, June 27, 1926*. The section was designed to showcase ongoing developments in Grandview Heights and Upper Arlington, and includes information about the new Grandview Theater, new Grandview High School, mayors, school administrators, teachers, builders and developers, and many 'ads' for companies supplying building materials and fixtures. The new River Ridge section of Upper Arlington (south of Fishinger between Riverside Drive and Tremont Road) was being vigorously promoted.

E. Ray Evans, uncle to the late Lloyd Herd, was a prominent 1920s builder in both Grandview Heights and Upper Arlington. His full-page ad pictures homes for sale overlooking Scioto Country Club, on Andover Road, at Oxley Road and Second Avenue, and on Fairview Avenue.

EVANS THE BUILDER

**Prominent Northwest Community
Builder Has two Dozen Structures
Under Way
HAS 60 MEN IN EMPLOY
Unique methods Are Used**

Seven years ago E. Ray Evans started building homes in Upper Arlington. Today more than 100 homes in various parts of the village stand to his credit and at the present time he has almost two dozen singles, doubles or duplexes, representing a total value of approximately \$475,000 under construction in Upper Arlington and the adjoining community of Grandview.



This issue sponsored by

GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

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1926: BOOM YEAR IN GRANDVIEW/UPPER ARLINGTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I have faith in this section," Evans declared, "It is the only logical place for families to move who consider the welfare of their children, pleasant surroundings and community spirit, as most important in this business of living."

All houses which have been built and are being constructed by Evans are his own design.

Everything in the erection of the houses, with the exception of plastering and cementing, is done by Evans' organization. More than 60 men are employed by this northwest builder and the harmony and cooperation among his employees constitutes one of the unique phases of local labor history.

In Grandview, Evans has three doubles on Oxley Road, a single on West Second Avenue, and another on Merrick Road. In addition, he is erecting a factory building to be occupied soon by the Acme Art Glass Company on West Goodale Street.

In Evans' organization there are several factors inspiring cooperation. In the first place the personnel of his building group are loyal and harmonious in carrying forward his projects.

Just recently as one of the unique phases of Evans' policy he took out 45 life insurance policies of \$1000 each for men who had been in his employ for at least six months. "Many men in my employ, I found, did not have anything laid by to provide for their family in case of death," Evans said. "I have always had an interest in the men who work for me and those who show their loyalty and cooperation I have always tried to reward."

Another feature is the holding of organization meetings in the mill at 1407 Grandview Avenue every second Monday night at which prominent speakers in building, architectural, educational and other lumber lines are brought before the men. All problems of construction are discussed at these sessions and they are attended by practically all in the organization.

Fifty percent of the homes under construction in Upper Arlington, Evans declared, are made of native stone, quarried at Marble Cliff.

Fifty carloads of lumber are used a year by Mr. Evans in building the homes—approximately 1,000,000 feet.

A contest now being conducted by Evans in the construction of two homes on Guilford Road, in which a substantial award is to be made to the respective foreman in charge who completes the job with the least expenditure of money and still preserves the quality.

Evans lives on Tremont Road in Upper Arlington and has his offices at 52 West Gay Street.

Throughout the community this week approximately 60 houses which have either been completed and are ready for occupancy or are in the final stages of construction, will be open for public inspection. A few apartment houses are included. These residences constitute what is said to be the largest building program in or around Columbus.

Starting Sunday and continuing throughout the week, owners and builders or their representatives will be present at each house to show visitors over the property. Every house has incorporated in it the most up-to-date features and all of them have been designed to meet the needs of discriminative [sic] homeseekers.

More than \$1,000,000 in home construction has been started since January 1 in these communities. A record figure is expected by the end of the year.

The Columbus Dispatch,
Special Section, June 27, 1926.

[Ed. Addresses listed are on Gladden, Parkway North, West Second Avenue, Norton, Holly, Northwest Boulevard, West First Avenue, Thomas Road, Tremont Road, Yorkshire, Devon, Wickford, Kensington, Beverly, North Parkway, Arlington Avenue, Cambridge Boulevard, and Club Road.]

From the Archives

by Terry Smith

At the September society board meeting I announced I would not be standing for reelection, but would consider doing volunteer work for the society. The board then voted me the Archivist, charged with organizing and indexing our records.

My first step has been sorting unfiled material. In the process, I came across an envelope with a small lined notebook, labeled "I.W.G." Where to file it? What do the initials mean?

Entries in the notebook from 1938 to about 1958 consisted of the names of women and what they had to eat. Calls to several longtime residents produced the surmise that "G" might stand for Guild, perhaps a church group. I then called Lucile Osborn, who has lived in the same house since 1918. The initials brought nothing to her mind, but the names of many of the women were familiar to her, particularly Ann Hughes, her former next door neighbor. Then she began to chuckle and said she had not thought of this group for many years.

The story: One day Mrs. Hughes called Mrs. Osborn and said she wanted her to go to lunch. Mrs. Osborn replied that

she was in the middle of the wash and could not leave, but Mrs. Hughes said to put the wash aside, as the request was important. Then she told Mrs. Osborn it was imperative that she come exactly as she was dressed, and she was to look in the refrigerator for something to make a sandwich. They drove up along the Scioto River and joined a number of other women and had their lunch. Then they drove home. That was it.

I.W.G.? Idle Women of Grandview, a social club dedicated to enjoying an occasional meal together. My thanks to "Diddy" Osborn for this story.

If you have any old materials you are thinking of throwing out, consider offering them to the historical society. Scrapbooks, mementos, photographs, anything that has relevance to the communities of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff. Contact me at terrysmithghs@hotmail.com or leave a note at the library reference desk.

Next issue: The Tiniest Items in Our Collection.



NEW DISCOVERIES

by Tom DeMaria

“Pleiades” – Classmates in the GHHS Class of 1922

During the past year we have received a number of first-person narratives about life in early Grandview Heights for our archives. One in particular caught my attention. Written by Dorothy Williams Pfeifer, it describes her relationship with six girls who were particularly close friends and classmates in the GHHS class of 1922. They referred to themselves as the “Pleiades,” a cluster of seven stars in the firmament named for seven mythological sisters. Each of the young women had a “star nickname.” They are pictured below.

There were 40 students in the class of 1922, and they were the last to graduate from the “Little Red School,” aka Harding School, on the east side of Fairview Avenue.

Excerpts from the 1922 Memory Book of Alleyne Higgs indicate that the girls regularly entertained at each other’s homes according to the genteel standards of the time. Our research would suggest the the “Pleiades” were virtually inseparable. Beautifully preserved handwritten invitations, party favors, and thank you notes fill the pages of Alleyne’s Memory Book and scrapbooks. Gentility aside, the most notable accomplishment

of the “Pleiades” is that six of the seven went on to receive college degrees. Fourteen of the eighteen young women in the GHHS class of 1922 went to college! This is amazing, given the culture, times, and expectations of most young women in 1922, when receiving a high school diploma was considered a significant accomplishment.

The “Seven Sisters” and their alma maters are: Esther Griffin (OSU Arts major); Edna Grubb (did not attend college); Alleyne Higgs (OSU Arts major); Dorothy and her twin sister, Virginia Hague (both OSU Home Economics majors); Marjorie Hammond (Oberlin College Arts major); Dorothy Williams (OSU Arts major).

Two of the “Stars” continue to shine: Dorothy Williams Pfeifer celebrated her one-hundredth birthday with family, friends, and the OSU Marching Band in October. Dorothy Hague, the other surviving “Sister,” is 101 and resides in Florida.

Special thanks to Wayne Carlson for creating the “Pleiades” composite photograph



*Pleiades — Top Row left to right: Virginia Hague, Marjorie Hammond, Dorothy Williams;
Bottom Row left to right: Esther Griffin, Dorothy Hague, Alleyne Higgs, Edna Grubb*



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

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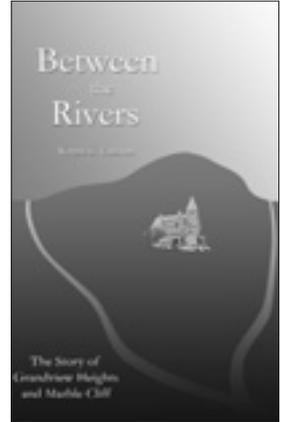
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<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$500.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000.00



BETWEEN THE RIVERS IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Our new book publication, *Between the Rivers*, created by board member, Dr. Wayne Carlson, details the development of our communities through a combination of historically accurate research and vintage photographs & images. We will deliver to Grandview-area addresses for \$11.95 per copy. Others send \$13.95 to include postage and handling.



Please make checks payable to **GH/MC Historical Society**. Mail to GH/MC Historical Society at 1685 West First Avenue, Columbus OH 43212 OR call Ruthanne James at 614-486-6456. A great gift for any season!

We have reached around to pat ourselves on the back!

On October 8 at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus, your society received the 2005 Excellence Award in the Category: Historical Outreach for our newsletter: *ViewPoints*. We are just about pleased enough to dislocate a shoulder! Several board members were able to attend the annual luncheon of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, at which the award was presented. Special thanks to those members and friends who wrote letters of support for the application. We will apply ourselves to maintaining the standard of quality which earned the approbation.

ViewPoints is an occasional publication of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society.



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Contact Editor Patrick Mooney (614-225-0130) for any interesting article ideas or to discuss photo contributions.

Reminder to Annual Members

Renewal time is here! Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society membership year runs from October through the following September. The mailing label on this newsletter shows the expiration date of your membership. Your continued support is solicited and very much appreciated.

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE
 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

The Grandview
 Heights/Marble Cliff
 Historical Society

