



ViewPoints



December 2006

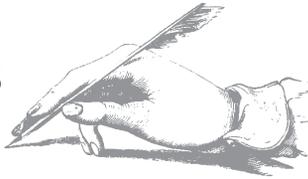
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A N OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members,

With the onset of the holidays, Grandview and Marble Cliff are becoming dressed in their festive holiday lights and decorations. Grandview Avenue is abuzz with shoppers and diners and storefronts are delightfully decorated.

*Your board is busy with ongoing projects. Sales of books are steady, and most recently, we've begun a "publications special." This special bundle includes copies of all our publications to date, tied with a ribbon and offered for \$25, a 33% discount. The bundles are selling quite well, and make a wonderful holiday gift. Please contact me or any board member if you'd like to purchase one. Individual publications are also available, including our most recent effort, *Between the Rivers*.*

*Trustees Tom DeMaria and Wayne Carlson have continued to do various speaking programs for the society, and the two continue their fabulous job with the "Moment in Time" weekly column in *ThisWeek Grandview*. We've had so many compliments on the column and are proud of its success. Wayne keeps our website updated as his time permits.*

We are in the early stages of planning our next Tour of Homes, to be held in May 2007. We will continue the tradition of holding the tour on Mother's Day, and anticipate the usual large attendance. This is our largest fund raiser, and really fun to boot! We always need assistance from community members as docents, so please contact us if you are interested in helping.

The board has also been assisting the City of Grandview Heights with a centennial photograph project: portraits of former mayors have been relocated, and soon there will be nostalgic centennial photographs in the main entrance of City Hall. The board has also prepared a list of historically significant properties, (commercial and residential), for the use of Grandview's city planning.

As always, I welcome any comments, suggestions, or contributions you may wish to offer:

To you and yours, the happiest of holidays and a healthy and happy new year!

Sincerely,

Tracy Liberatore
President

As We Were

75 Years Ago: *Grandview Heights Becomes a City*

"GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS NO LONGER A VILLAGE"

Grandview Heights became a city on January 1st of the present year by proclamation of Secretary of State Clarence J. Brown.

The people were then given the year 1931 to decide which one of the various forms of city government they desired to operate under permanently. Following a special election on May 19 a Charter Commission drafted a charter for the new City and on July 28 the charter was adopted by a large vote.

Tri-Village News, Friday, October 16, 1931

50 Years Ago: *The Grand Grandview Non-annexation*

"GRANDVIEW ANNEXATION GRANTED"

Grandview Heights residents were elated Tuesday over the decision of County commissioners to grant annexation of 426 acres of Franklin Township to the city.

The area is bounded on the west by an irregular line near Grandview Avenue, south by the Scioto River, east by Olentangy River Road, and north by Grandview.

Among acreage and properties included in the area are the Columbus Waterworks and filtration plant, plots owned by Marble Cliff Quarries and American Aggregates, the site of the proposed Sears Roebuck plant, WBNS-TV and the Palmer-Donavin Company.

City Service Director Floyd C. Redick, City Atty. Chalmers Wylie and other city officials as well as the owners of industry, through their attorney, Samuel Randal, vigorously opposed the annexation.

Tri-Village News, Thursday, December 20, 1956

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This issue sponsored by

GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL





“A PINNEY GIRL: A MEMOIR” (Selections)

by Helen Louise Pinney Perrine GHHS '31

Dressing for Winter

When the time came that I must do it myself, getting dressed for school on a cold winter morning in the early 1920s was a struggle. First came the long underwear with a buttoned drop seat; then a sleeveless pantywaist that buttoned down the front. It had tabs for you to hook your stocking supporters.

Stockings had to be put on very carefully. There should not be a hint of anything under them but legs. Black sateen (a cotton cloth made to resemble satin) bloomers and a white flannel petticoat came next. By then I was ready to sit down and button up my high topped shoes. I breathed a sigh of relief when I had finally donned my blue serge skirt and middie blouse.

When I went out the door in the winter I had added mittens that were fastened to a cord that was threaded through the sleeves of a heavy coat, plus a scarf and knitted hat.

My struggles didn't last forever. Mother heard of a wonderful child specialist and we were soon under his care. “Madame,” he said, “you are dressing your children for the outside and they are spending most of their time on the inside.” Off came the long underwear and the flannel petticoat, and fashion, in time, changed the shoes.



Hard Times

One evening when I was about ten, the family were enjoying ourselves at the Olentangy Amusement Park when Dad suddenly began to have severe pain. The next day we were told he had a kidney infection. Two operations fairly close together left him with weakness and depression and finally unemployment.

My mother rose to the occasion. Before her marriage she was an expert seamstress and earned a good living. In two weeks time she was in business. She opened a school in their large bedroom upstairs. It had windows on two sides, which gave lots of light. She taught ladies the skill of making designer clothes. They all had knowledge of basic sewing. They did all their own machine stitching and worked under her supervision. She gave advice on finishing handwork. They went home with a garment worthy of a label, plus it fit well. Mother's venture was very successful. She charged \$30 a day and always had a waiting list.

Dad would visit the card room at the Columbus Men's Athletic Club several evenings a week. His winnings helped out a lot.

...Dad started to sell life insurance at John Hancock and surprised everyone by becoming successful in a very short time. He could sell anywhere in the state.

Mother's schoolroom again became sleeping quarters for my parents.

I Felt Like A Pioneer

I must have been in my early teens when a Piggley Wiggley store opened on Grandview Avenue [Bank Block, 1928, Ed.]. I well remember the day. The advertised specials tempted my mother. She asked me to pick up some for her.

I would occasionally shop for her at Krogers. It was customary to make a list and hand it to the clerk behind the counter. I would wait while he bustled around collecting the items and putting them in a bag. I would then pay him and start for home.

This day, at the Piggley Wiggley, I was in for a surprise. When I passed through the door, clutching my list, I was given a basket on wheels. I was told to push it around, selecting what I came for, and then go to the checkout counter where my groceries would be bagged, and I would pay for them.

I was stunned and more than a little insulted, but I began pushing my cart up and down the well-stocked aisles. To my surprise, I was enjoying myself. I, suddenly, had a strong feeling of pride. I was actually there, when a brand new method of grocery shopping came to Grandview. It was fantastic! It took half the usual time for me to get home to spread the news. My moment of indignation was my secret, until now!

from “A Pinney Girl: A Memoir”
by Helen Louise Pinney Perrine GHHS '31



NEW DISCOVERIES

by Tom DeMaria

The Bierberg Brothers and Their Grandview Connection

For years the identities of the dapper young men standing on the railroad tracks with the panoramic background view of Marble Cliff Station and the Price family homes on the hill were not known. Wayne Carlson and I simply referred to them as the “dudes on the tracks” whenever we used it for a GH/MCHS presentation.

We were intrigued by their distinctive and elegant clothing and curious as to who was the third person operating the camera. Our search led us to a similar photograph (below) donated by GH/MCHS member Galen Gonser that also featured similar well-dressed young men. It was labeled as Ferdinand and Valentine Bierberg with their bicycles near the Trabue Road covered bridge around 1900. Over the past six months we have learned that Ferdinand and Valentine, not surprisingly, were Columbus tailors by trade and also extremely accomplished amateur photographers. Together with their brother, Henry, they developed an extensive photographic record of early twentieth century Central Ohio, including Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff. Many of the turn of the century photographs in our collection are their work.



Standing on the tracks leaving Marble Cliff Station circa 1900 are Valentine (left) and Henry (right) Bierberg.



Posing in front of the Trabue Road covered bridge over the Scioto River circa 1900 are Ferdinand (left) and Valentine (right) Bierberg.

(Special thanks to Helen Bierberg Walsh for providing GH/MCHS with her family history.)

Quite by chance, while serving as a docent for the Builders Remodeling Tour last spring, I met Ferdinand's great granddaughter, Jennifer, who put me in contact with her mother, Helen Bierberg Walsh, the family historian. Helen's other daughter, Monica, resides in the family home on Wyandotte Road. Helen graciously provided us with additional family history, genealogy, and additional photographs.

Valentine (1872-1948), Henry (1878-1961), and Ferdinand (1881-1955) Bierberg all arrived in Columbus, Ohio from Speyer, Germany around 1900. They plied their trade and were tailors for the Pontifical College Josephinum which originally occupied the entire city block surrounded by East Mound and East Main Streets, and South 17th and 18th Streets, on the southeast side of Columbus. The “Josephinum” moved to Worthington in 1931. The Bierberg tailor shop had been adjacent to the seminary. After its relocation the brothers opened a tailor and furrier shop at 937 East Main Street.

Though the tailor shop ceased doing business thirty years ago, another Bierberg tradition started by Ferdinand's wife, Theresa, in 1913 continues to this day. She opened the Feinbackerei Bierbergs in German Village, where traditional German Christmas cookies are still provided to an appreciative and enthusiastic clientele throughout Central Ohio.



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**
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As We Were CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“COMMISSIONERS CHANGE MINDS ON ANNEX ISSUE”

...two of the three county commissioners voted to reverse the previous decision of the Board and deny the petition asking annexation of 426 acres along Dublin Road to Grandview Heights.

...As a compromise measure, the commissioners agreed that they would recommend to the State Board of Education that the tax money for school support continue to go to the Grandview Heights School District.

Tri-Village News, Thursday, March 28, 1957

[Editor's Note: Decades later, school tax income from this "Golden Finger" was reassigned to the Columbus City School District.]

NEW LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATION

A History of Our Lady of Victory: Through the Years, 1922-2007, a 225-page illustrated history of the Marble Cliff church and its pastors and people, became available in November. Written by journalist and teacher, Katie Foley, a member of the parish, and underwritten by Our Lady of Victory Women's Club under the leadership of Mary Waterfield, the volume includes significant early history of the parish site. The story is enhanced by personal memoirs, material gleaned from interviews and years of extensive research, and its faithfulness to the truth.

Copies are available (\$10) at Our Lady of Victory Parish Office.

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
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The Grandview
Heights/Marble Cliff
Historical Society

