



ViewPoints



July 2016

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



Dear Members:

Happy Summer! It's so great to see everyone out and about walking or riding bicycles. Grandview Avenue is busier than ever! The new Grandview Theatre marquee and reopening is sure to be a success and the new Balboa restaurant is humming with a constant stream of diners. The Grandview Café will be open soon, too. I remember when my husband and I moved here so many years ago.....the Avenue was nothing more than a tackle store, a barber shop, and of course, the Gourmet Market (now Spagio). I cannot believe the transformation of it, and of Grandview in general. The Grandview Yard is shaping up as well. I took a drive down Yard Street. Hard to believe it was an old empty warehouse at one time.

The Board is working diligently to have a great historical home tour this October. In years past, we held the tour on Mother's Day, but we felt fall would be a better time frame.

We are very excited to be working with the City of Grandview Heights on the Wallace Gardens improvement project. The gardens will remain as they are, but with many historically educational enhancements.

We will have our usual display table at the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Arts Council's Lazy Daze Festival this year and have decided to open our archives room in the Grandview Heights Public Library to the public that day. Please stop in and see us when you're at the festival.

We are pleased to announce new lifetime member Teri Alexander. Teri is a history lover and worked very hard on the issue of the proposed demolition of the original Salzgeber farm house.

Enjoy this wonderful time of year with family and friends and have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Tracy Liberatore, President

Visit the Society's Archives Room This July



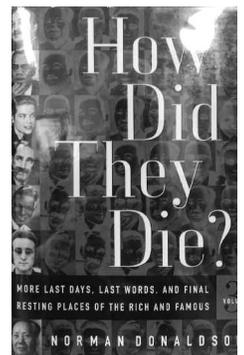
Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the door labeled Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society in the non-fiction section of the Grandview Library? On July 23, during the Lazy Daze Festival, you are invited to walk through the small archives room. Look at our displays, discover what resources we have, and generally familiarize yourself with this space. A member of the GH/MCHS Board of Directors will be present if you have questions.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Norman and Betty Donaldson were co-authors of a 3-volume book series entitled, "How Did They Die".

After reading more than a thousand book-length biographies, writing to museums and historians, gleaning bits and pieces from medical journals and obituaries, they wrote about an estimated 500 notable people's last days from kings and queens, murderers and criminals, and saints and sinners. The Donaldsons were born in England but lived at 1358 Inglis Avenue for more than 20 years. These unique books are available to see in the GH/MCHS Archives Room in the Grandview Library.



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Swimming Through the Years



Swimming hole under construction in 1921.

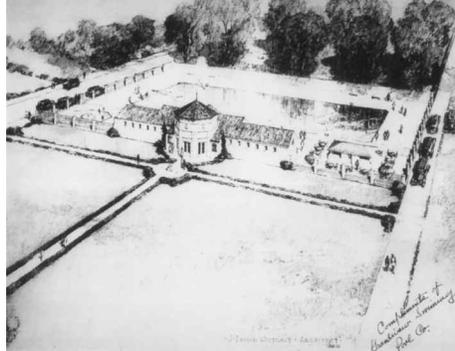
1921 – Swimming Hole Beginnings

Swimming in Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff communities began with a swimming hole located at a gravel pit lake near the site of the current water treatment plant on Dublin Road. Members of the community hauled in sand to create a beach and built a beach house for changing clothes in 1922. Steps down to the swimming hole were also constructed, and a raft and diving boards were installed in the water.

The swimming hole was open from 1:30 to 8 p.m. and closed on Sundays. Children could not swim in the evenings unless accompanied by parents. About 50 to 60 attendees visited the swimming hole daily in its first summer of operation. “*Petty larceny*” prompted the community to issue permit buttons so non-residents would be prohibited; buttons cost 25 cents each.



Franz (Jinks) Stone does a swan dive into the swimming hole. The Stone family owned the property at the current location of Stonegate Village.



Original design drawing for Grandview Swimming Pool Co. private pool facility.

1932 – Private Swimming Pool Established

The construction of a new pool in smaller neighboring Upper Arlington and the drowning of two Grandview boys at the swimming hole prompted the need for a swimming pool to serve GH/MC. The pool was built in 1932 by the Grandview Swimming Pool Co., 1311 Grandview Ave., as a private enterprise and was operated on a limited membership plan. The original company officers were C.A. Niple (of the Burgess & Niple engineering firm), J.S. Radebaugh, and Henry Taylor.

Several sites in Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff were considered for the pool, and a site on Goodale Boulevard near Kramer Ave. was eventually chosen which offered access to a street car line. The land for the pool on Goodale Boulevard was sold for \$1 by Richard B. Fairley, President of the Globe Chair Company, Hillsboro, OH, to the Grandview Swimming Pool Co.

The pool was fed by a natural spring with a state of the art filtration system designed to completely change the water every eight hours. Patrons were promised “*the most modern and scientific equipment... to insure sanitation, pure water and protection for all.*” The original pool — 150 feet x 75 feet — was the largest community swimming facility in the Columbus area at the time.

Memberships were \$10/year for individuals and \$25/year for families and advertised as “*A Whole Summer Vacation... At the Cost of One Week End Trip.*” The pool opened on Memorial Day, 1932.



Features of the original pool building included a red tile roof and buff brick on the outside.

The pool building was designed by Columbus architect J. Edgar Outcalt (1890 – 1963) who also designed the Barracks School in Upper Arlington, the Linden theatre, the Sullivant Gardens housing project, a Bexley swimming pool, and other commercial buildings and homes in central Ohio. Mr. Outcalt was Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbus chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1926. His AIA membership was terminated however due to nonpayment of his dues — perhaps a result of financial uncertainty leading up to the Great Depression: “*...Business has been so bad in this locality and the prospects for the future not much better...*” noted a December 16, 1929 letter from J. Edgar Outcalt to the national AIA.

The Great Depression also may have influenced recruitment of workers to build the pool. The “*unemployed of Grandview (bad) first consideration*” (*Tri-Village News*, 1932) in securing jobs on the original pool



Aerial view of original swimming pool.



construction. At the time, the City of Grandview Heights employed a staggered system of two groups of 25 workers — each group worked every other week. The Grandview workers assisted in the pool construction whenever possible.

Among the first employees were Ms. Doris Gardner who was hired for daily supervision of swimming and play of young children, and Mr. Bill Zwick, athletic coach at Grandview Heights High School who was in charge of concessions and starting a swimming team.



Head lifeguard Teri Williams (nee Antolino) leaps from the high dive as Grandview Heights Mayor Lawrence Pierce and Congressman Chalmers Wylie cut the ribbon opening the Grandview Heights Municipal Swimming Pool at the dedication held June 3, 1978.

1978 – Pool Becomes Grandview Facility

The pool was sold to Robert Wasmus in 1945 and operated privately until the City of Grandview Heights purchased the pool in late 1977 for \$150,000. After an extensive renovation, the city opened it as a community swimming pool in 1978.

The goal for the renovation was to include space for everybody. Most of the design was directed toward families spending time in the water in addition to an area for diving and swimming competition — leading to a reconfiguration of the original rectangular pool into an L shape. Outside of the water, the renovation

maintained a basketball court for local athletes to hone their game, an extensive lawn for family seating, and a concession area for teenagers. The “first phase” of renovations undertaken by the City cost \$295,000. John Corna Concrete Construction performed the work, a forerunner of the construction management firm, Corna-Kokosing, who will be doing planned renovations in 2016. The federal government initially contributed \$104,000 of the cost through its “Community Development Act.” Later, an additional \$10,490 was given to Grandview for a total of \$114,490. Marble Cliff paid \$10,000 towards the pool renovation, in exchange for “free” pool passes for their residents for 5 years.

Original projections were for 2,500 individual memberships to be sold the first season as a City pool in 1978; under private ownership in 1977, the pool had 1,900 members. However, 3,500 individual memberships were sold the first season, a 75% increase over the number sold the last year of private ownership. The first pool operating budget in 1978 was \$40,000.



Signature wall in pool basement listing pool lifeguards for 2000 season.



The new pool building will maintain the appearance of the original 1932 structure with a tile roof and hexagonal cupola (drawing courtesy of Grandview Parks and Recreation).

2016 – Major Pool Renovation Will Give Nod to History

The City of Grandview Heights will be renovating the public pool beginning August 2016 with completion anticipated by Spring 2017. Six planning meetings have been held to garner input from the GH/MC residents. Current design plans can be found on the City’s website.

The original 1932 pool building will be demolished and a new facility will be constructed. As homage to our communities’ swimming history, the design for the new pool building will include an entrance with a red clay tile roof and cupola to partially represent elements from the original building. Two dedication plaques from the current pool facility will be moved to the renovated facility. A relief depicting the original pool building is also under consideration for installation in the new building.

Tour of Homes Coming in October

The GH/MC Historical Society Tour of Homes will be held Sunday, October 9, 2016 (also National Fire Prevention Day — check your smoke detectors!). Our featured homes will include a grand home built in the early 1900s with a hillside setting and a home with a classic entrance and floor plan on over half an acre lot. These homes have never been seen on past Society tours. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour — locations of all the homes, tour times, and other details will be published in the *Tri-Village News* and our September newsletter. Contact Jill Kuyper at jillkuyper@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer as a docent for the tour — docents will receive free admission to the tour. This tour is intended for adults and children 12 years and older.



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 Public Library,**
1685 West First Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212

NAME _____ DATE _____

SPOUSE (IF COUPLE MEMBERSHIP) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please check the appropriate membership box:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1–SEPT. 30)

- Single \$10.00
- Couple \$15.00
- Organization \$25.00

LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP

ONE-TIME PAYMENT

- Single \$100.00
- Couple \$150.00
- Organization \$500.00
- Benefactor \$1000.00



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A SHORT HISTORY ON NEW LIFETIME MEMBER TERI ALEXANDER

Teri Alexander has been a Grandview resident since 1980 when she married and moved to Jamestown Apartments on Bluff Ave. She is from Dublin, OH, and her first memory of Grandview is coming to a football game. The Dublin band director said they were going to an inner city school and to stick together. After looking all around Columbus to buy a house, her family realized that they were already living in a great neighborhood and purchased the house Teri currently lives in on Grandview Ave. in March 1984. All three of her children attended Grandview Heights Schools from kindergarten through high school. Teri developed an interest in historic structures while living in Dublin and that interest has transferred to preserving historic buildings and the history surrounding them in Grandview. Last year she worked on efforts to get stronger language for preserving historical structures in Grandview's city code. Teri felt becoming a lifetime member of the Society would align well with her interests.

The Society is Getting Greener!

We would like to increase the number of newsletters we deliver electronically and decrease the number of hard copies we mail. This move will save money which we can then direct to more historical Society projects. If you are not already getting *ViewPoints* electronically, kindly send an email with your current email address to: ghmchs@gmail.com. Please include "Going Green" in the subject line. We will maintain your email address in confidence. Thank you for helping us with this project!

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The Grandview
Heights/Marble Cliff
Historical Society

