



ViewPoints



October 2014

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

Local History at Your Fingertips

The Annual Meeting of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society will be held Sunday, October 19, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Grandview Heights Public Library. Grandview Library director Ryan McDonnell will showcase the Society's new online Timeline, an interactive display of local historical events, pictures, and stories.

This exciting new resource replaces the timeline created by Lorna "Skip" Karlovec and Margie Wilson in 1996 to mark the 90th Anniversary of Grandview Heights incorporation. A large framed version of the 1996 timeline hangs in the library atrium. Paper copies have been provided by the Society each year to Grandview third-graders for their study of local history. Many requests for updating the 1996 timeline led to the creation of this online version by Win Keller, Jill Kuyper and Debbie Farynowski, with the technical assistance of Ryan McDonnell. Users will be able to view the timeline, then click on points of interest to read and listen to information and stories of community history.

There will be a special display of unusual artifacts from the society archives in the display case in Grandview Heights Public Library.

The program will begin with a brief Society business meeting. Join us to view this exciting new resource and enjoy refreshments and social time with members and Board.

Annual Meeting

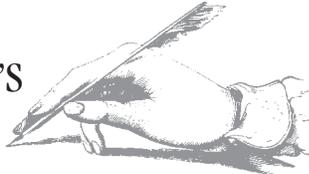
Sunday, October 19, 2014 — 2:00 p.m.

Grandview Heights Public Library

Membership Renewal Time!

Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society membership year runs from October 1 through September 30. Annual memberships are renewable now. For your membership status see the mailing label on this newsletter. Life memberships are a convenience to members and significant support for the Society. Look for your renewal notice in the mail. If you do not receive a notice, please contact Karen Riggs, Membership Chair, at karriggs@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members:

Crisp fall weather is nearing! It certainly was a wonderful but fairly mild summer. I look forward to seeing pumpkins and listening to the GHHS band practice from my front porch!

The Board is still working dutifully! The Archives committee is in the room at least two days a week. Thanks to Win Keller, Jill Kuyper and Debbie Farynowski who have been constants in this effort. Our goal, remember, is to make our holdings of community history available to you and the general public. The Archives committee have been especially generous with their time in assisting WOSU in the Columbus Neighborhoods Tri-Village production, which will air sometime in 2015. WOSU and GHMC/HS hosted a "sharing day" in June, where many residents showed up with stories and artifacts.

An exciting new project will be unveiled at our annual meeting in October. (See article this issue.) I don't want to elaborate too much, but we are making great strides!

The Bank Block 'breezeway' has a grand new look. (See p. 4) Thanks to Rutbanne James and Jane Harris for the update, as well as getting the lighting repaired! Many thanks also to Tom DeMaria. He has been amazingly steadfast in arranging new and interesting displays in our display cabinet at the high school. So, please, everyone, stop by and enjoy the breezeway and high school displays.

Many thanks to Scott Williams for his recent contributions to the society archives.

Welcome to our newest life members, Adam and Helen Miller. They have moved into the former Frick/McKay home on Roxbury Road. We thank them for their support!

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, and donations. The Archives Committee is also readily available.

*Sincerely,
Tracy Liberatore, President*

This issue sponsored by

ANONYMOUS DONORS





THE KORN KRIB ERA AT 1272 CAMBRIDGE



By Scott Williams

Descendants of the Korn family look at our records and surmise that it was Hilda (Fogt) Korn, rather than her husband Carl, who was behind the decision to purchase 1272 Cambridge from New York Life Insurance Company in 1942. Hilda was already living at 1450 Haines Avenue in Grandview Heights where she operated the “Tiny Tot Nursery” – a 24/7 daycare facility, charging 25 cents the first hour and 10 cents for each additional hour.



Carl and Hilda Korn

Hilda and Carl Korn also owned a farmhouse at the corner of Fishinger and Kenny, where Carl lived to be closer to a sawmill he had purchased in Plain City.

The Korn family had come to Columbus from small villages in rural Shelby County. Both had fun loving but cantankerous German heritage personalities, and found themselves in a “rushed” marriage.” Hilda was a pioneer spirit as lead player for the local girls’ basketball team, and the first girl in her church to cut off her traditional German-style long braids. The Korn family were

pioneers, too. Carl’s cousins, Milton and Edward Korn, successfully built and flew a monoplane in 1911. Operating from Korn Field on the family farm, the brothers did the first exhibition flying at the Shelby County Fairgrounds in 1912, barnstormed across northwestern Ohio and Indiana and achieved a number of early aviation ‘firsts,’ including the first inflight “selfie” photograph. Their career ended with a tragic crash in August 1913. Milton did not survive and Edward was seriously injured. In 1946 their brother Arlington Korn revived and enlarged Korn Field and ran it as a flight school until 1958. (See: <http://earlyaviators.com/ekorned1.htm>)

We can imagine Hilda wanting to get out of the chaotic daycare business to open a boarding house at 1272 Cambridge. On the streetcar line to downtown Columbus, it was a perfect location to open a boarding house for young women in school or working downtown. And how convenient to have “The Trading Post” across the street at First Community Church to find affordable new clothes to wear downtown! The Korn family renovated the building by adding bedrooms to the ground floor and creating a large kitchen booth to seat a dozen or more young ladies every day for breakfast and dinner. One of the ground floor bedrooms was for Hilda Korn and included a new private bath. The rooming house could lodge a dozen or more girls at a time. In the 1940s the rate was \$10 per week, which included breakfast and dinner Monday through Friday.

Among the young ladies who began residence in 1942 was



Hilda's youngest daughter Rebecca (Becky) Korn (Williams).

From the start, it was just like a sorority and many lifelong friendships were made. It was this first group of women who named their new home the Korn Krib. Becky Korn wrote poems about living there, including her 1945 "Korn Krib Christmas" sung to the tune of Jingle Bells. Decades later at reunions of the Korn Krib girls they always invited Lincoln Road resident Victor Ries, who famously decided one day to offer them a free lift downtown to save on their carline ticket cost, which at the time was six rides for a quarter.



The Korn Krib Girls, Christmas 1946

At 95 years of age, Hilda's oldest daughter, Virginia, still remembers having to pitch in when hired help was absent to help her mother prepare meals for the girls. Virginia recently shared a description of 1272 Cambridge as she remembered it. In the unfinished attic was a large wooden bin where the girls left unwanted clothes. Hilda Korn was also a seamstress and would alter these clothes for her own daughters and daughters of friends. Some bedrooms were large enough to hold two girls. There were two refrigerators and a chest-style deep freezer. The basement had a washroom with a Maytag wringer washer and a coal-fired furnace. Virginia remembers Hilda's closeness to the African American help she hired. Malvira worked at 1272 for many years and Hilda attended her funeral. The author remembers watching Malvira running a "giant" Hoover vacuum cleaner sculpted not unlike the cars of the day, and with a headlight, too! Virginia's three sons all remember grandfather Carl bringing them over to 'sweat-it-out' mowing the yard with a heavy push reel mower. All the Korn descendants remember the frequent bee swarm infestations in the stone chimney that bedeviled the owners, and scared visitors and residents!

Becky Korn Williams kept many records (e.g. The photos in this article and other materials being donated to the historical society.) One of Becky's records is a log of every young woman who roomed at 1272 Cambridge. The log lists, in chronological order, with dates of entry and departure, 248 young women who stayed at the Korn Krib from 1942 to 1967, with stays ranging from months to years. We don't know why Hilda and Carl decided to sell 1272 Cambridge in 1966 after 24 years, but times were changing, and there were troubles with a few residents, as the author remembers hearing his grandmother upset about certain borders. Carl died in July 1967. The August auction of the house's contents (including 14 beds and a fine black 1960 Cadillac) drew a large crowd under the gavel of noted auctioneer Si Lakin.

Even while she was managing 1272 Cambridge Hilda was also operating a seamstress business from her new home on Ridgeview Road facing Northam Park in Upper Arlington.



Reunion, July 17, 1965. Third left: Becky Korn Williams, with Victor Ries of Lincoln Road.

It was at this time, around 1963, that she also began helping a young man who had just opened a woman's clothing business in nearby Kingsdale Shopping Center. His name was Les Wexner and the store was The Limited.

Editor's Note:

The residence on the southeast corner of Cambridge and West First Avenue has long been considered one of the Lindenberg houses in Marble Cliff. The Lindenberg tenure was in fact brief. The home was built in 1903 by George and Edith Day. Day was the president of a Piano and Organ Company. In 1905 the property was sold to Paul Lindenberg, the youngest Lindenberg brother, and president of Columbus Piano Company, one of the Lindenberg businesses. In 1910 Paul and his wife Helen Tallmadge sold to his brother, Carl R. Lindenberg, who in turn sold the property to William R. Casparis in 1913.

By the mid 1910s both Paul Lindenberg's marriage and Marble Cliff residence had ended.

In 1923 Casparis and wife Louise Orr sold to Morton S. Lupher, an officer of Lupher Gas Producing Drilling Company. After Mrs. Lupher's death in 1929 the property had a series of owners and defaulted mortgages, ending with the property being sold at sheriff's sale to New York Life Insurance Company in 1935. Carl and Hilda Korn purchased the property from New York Life Insurance Company in 1942.

A check of Marble Cliff Village records seems to answer the question: How could there have been a rooming house in Marble Cliff? Since the 1920s there has been a Marble Cliff ordinance prohibiting such use, which was apparently not enforced because the property was also the residence of the owner. The matter did come to a head in 1966 when the property was advertised for sale as an income producing business. The issue became moot with the sale of the house in 1967.



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) _____

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Please check the appropriate membership box:

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YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1–SEPT. 30)

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 ideas or to discuss photo contributions.

A REQUEST

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Bank Block Breezeway



Stew Harrison's, c. 1950s.

Inset image: Original Hamburger Construction Co.

A new special exhibit in the Bank Block breezeway on Grandview showcases a recent donation to the Society: The graffiti-carved planks from Stew Harrison's Restaurant—or more properly from Stew's 1932 Hamburger Construction Company on the northeast corner of Grandview and West Fifth, which he renamed Stew Harrison's in 1956. It closed in 1984. The planks contain initials, college names, devotions to sweethearts, and other messages. Most date from the restaurant's early decades. Go have a look! Were these from the years when every boy craved a pocket knife, and carried one?

For a longer story of this display, Google: *ThisWeekNews*, Stew Harrison.

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE
 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

The Grandview
 Heights/Marble Cliff
 Historical Society

