



ViewPoints



May, 2003

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Society Members and Friends,

Spring is here and with it comes the flurry of outdoor activities and the wonderful colors of new growth. It is comforting once again to see the outdoor diners and visitors on Grandview Avenue and children practicing for ball games!

Your Board has been very active with all sorts of projects. I'm sure all local members are aware of the 2003 Decorator's Show House at 1087 Lincoln Road, which is expected to bring thousands of visitors to Grandview during its three-week run. GHMCHS board members have worked on an almost daily basis with the Show House board, providing them with information about the house's history and its architectural importance. Board member Tom DeMaria was featured in a segment about the house, which aired on Channel 10 on April 26. Our participation in this project not only provided material for this year's Show House, but brought local history and your Society's community involvement to the notice of the metropolitan area.

Recently, the GHMCHS was invited to make a presentation to the GHMC Chamber of Commerce at its spring luncheon. Board members Tom DeMaria and Wayne Carlson will present an overview of Society activities (including our award-winning website!) which promote the Tri-Village Community in general. It is our hope the Chamber will offer support for the work of the Society. We have previously provided information and photographs for the Chamber's historical map project, proceeds from the sale of which support Chamber projects.

On March 1, we joined several other historical societies for display and sharing at "Franklin County, Ohio: Bits and Pieces", an Ohio Bicentennial event sponsored by Columbus Metropolitan Main Library. During Franklin County Homecoming Days, April 30-May 2, we were among nearly forty historical societies and organizations which provided exhibits and information for the observance of the Franklin County Bicentennial. On May 2 board members participated in the annual Arbor Day tree-planting for the City of Grandview Heights. An 'Ohio Bicentennial Grove' was planted on the grounds of Wyman Woods. We are happy to have been part of these significant events of Ohio's Bicentennial year.

On Saturday, May 24, Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society will be part of the annual Memorial Day parade. This year we honor Mrs. Laura Titus, representing Gold Star Mothers and Blue Star Mothers, who will ride in an historic auto, provided by noted local collector, Tom Sutphen.

Mark your calendar now for our annual meeting, September 14, 2003, which will feature an Ohio Bicentennial theme. (See page 4)

A grateful welcome to new life members Shirley Hatch and Mary Ellen Hubbell!

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Liberatore
President

King Thompson's Boulevards: THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS EAST OF GRANDVIEW AVENUE

Everyone familiar with Tri-Village history properly associates the name of King G. Thompson with Upper Arlington, which originated with his purchase of the James T. Miller farm in late 1913. By 1915 the project, then called "The Country Club District", was being promoted by an elaborate brochure (See it online at www.ghmchs.org/PDFs/CCD.pdf) and an exhibit in downtown Columbus. The first 28 homes were completed in 1916. That summer construction was temporarily halted by the commandeering of the site by Ohio Governor Frank Willis for the mustering of 8000 Ohio National Guard troops, who were trained there before their deployment to Texas to protect the Mexican border.

Less well understood and little documented is the role of King Thompson, his brother Benjamin Sells Thompson, and their associates in the Northwest Boulevard Company in the early development of Grandview Heights east of Grandview Avenue, which began with the purchase of the 385-acre James O. Thomas farm and other properties in 1916.

By September, 1916, Northwest Boulevard Plats 1 and 2 had been filed. These laid out the area southeast of Grandview and First into Inglis Avenue and Mulford Road east to Hope Avenue. This area was not part of the Thomas farm. February, 1917, saw the filing of Northwest Boulevard Plat 3 which encompasses the area bounded by Oxley Road, Palmer, Mulford, Hope north to Third Avenue and Third Avenue east to Oxley Road again, including the present layout of First and Second Avenues, Virginia Avenue and Parkway Drive.

An elaborate double-page advertisement in the September 24, 1916 *Columbus Sunday Dispatch* announced October 2 as the opening date of the Northwest Boulevard Addition, and included a \$25 credit coupon for lot purchase.

We shall let King Thompson speak for himself: "Like the men who sold lots 'in the bushes across from the University' in 1906 (now the fine Indianola District), here now are the SAME MEN and the SAME ORGANIZATION with a lot proposition that so far OUTSHINES

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This issue sponsored by

COLLEEN SEXTON, MAYOR OF GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS





SUNDAY DISPATCH DECEMBER 3, 1912

HOBBIES NO. 256

KING G. THOMPSON

PROGRESS - ALL ALONG THE LINE - CIVICALLY, EDUCATIONALLY AND POLITICALLY!

HE WENT TO COLUMBUS AS A FIVE DOLLAR TO THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION AND WHEN HE SAW THE GAME THERE HE WAS WORKING HE WENT RIGHT THIS AND JOINED THE PROGRESSIVES



HE CAME TO TOWN AS A STUDENT. AT THE UNIVERSITY - COLUMBUS LOOKED GOOD TO HIM AND HE DECIDED TO STAY - AND NOW, AFTER TEN OR TWELVE YEARS OF ACTIVITY, THOMPSON LOOKS GOOD TO COLUMBUS!

HE HAS THE SPIRIT THAT GOOD TOWNS ARE MADE OF! HE IS NOT TOTALLY ALTRUISTIC - IF COLUMBUS PROGRESSES ALL BUSINESS WILL PROGRESS, AND HE IS A BUSINESS MAN - WHAT HEALTHIER MOVEMENT COULD A TOWN HAVE THAN THE ONE THAT PUSHES A TOWN AHEAD THAT IT MAY GROW WITH THE TOWN?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

AIN'T A GONN - I'M JUST A SIT-TIN'!

THEN GET OUT OF THE WAY AND LET A MAN GO THAT CAN GO!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP COLUMBUS?



OF ALL THE CREEPY WORKS THAT A TOWN IS HEIR TO, THIS PARTICULAR ONE IS THE WORST!

PROGRESS



NEW DISCOVERIES: “THE LINDENBERGS AND THEIR HACIENDA”

by Tom DeMaria

The Lindenberg/Voelker house at 1087 Lincoln Road has received its share of attention this year. Last November it was featured on the HGTV Program, “If These Walls Could Talk”, and most recently it was the “Decorator’s Showcase House” of the Women’s Board of the Columbus Museum of Art. Earlier this month nearly 20,000 people toured the “Hacienda”, as it is labeled on the original blueprints. The GHMCHS assisted with both these programs, and as luck would have it, garnered a few more treasures for our archives. Prior to this year we knew very little about Theodore Lindenberg, including his appearance. Theodore Lindenberg was one of four Lindenberg relatives living in close proximity to one another. All their homes were designed by the famous Columbus architect, Frank Packard. The family received a lot of coverage in the local press during 1903-1906 as they carved out their niche in what the press referred to as “Millionaire’s Row” in Marble Cliff, aka “Arlington” at the time. The area was centered around Arlington Country Club, and was seen by wealthy Columbus industrialists as a retreat from the unpleasantness of downtown.

Theodore Lindenberg’s namesake and great-grandfather was a prosperous lawyer with a judicial position in Prussia before fleeing his native land for the United States in 1849. In the U. S. the elder Lindenberg struggled with the English language and eventually found success in the manufacture of cigars. Meanwhile, in 1865, two of his sons, including Theodore’s father, engaged in a profitable partnership with Mitchell Campbell Lilley to create M. C. Lilley & Company. In the post Civil War economy, the company found a niche publishing the fraternal magazine, *The Odd Fellows Companion*, and later enlarged its scope to include the manufacture of fraternal regalia such as uniforms, badges, flags, banners and swords, quickly becoming the leading supplier of these products worldwide.

Theodore Lindenberg, who commissioned the home at 1087 Lincoln Road, was born in 1873. He attended Cornell University before starting his career with M. C. Lilley & Company. He was listed as a company director and served as president from 1928 to 1937. Interestingly, Theodore and his son, Theodore, Jr. were also pioneers in the world of sound movie theaters. They opened the Bexley Theater in the fall of 1935.

Theodore Lindenberg is shown in the accompanying photograph in the projection booth of the Grandview Theater, which he also managed, and where he tested his new equipment for a year prior to opening the Bexley. The Bexley Theater was innovative and consisted of twin auditoriums linked by the patented Lindenberg Sound System and projection equipment, which made it possible for both theaters to be served by a single film and soundtrack. This revolutionary design and technical equipment made the Bexley Theater unique among movie theaters of the world. The Bexley Theater opening also included the unveiling of an automatic drinking fountain, activated by a selenium “electric-eye”.

Theodore never received the notoriety in the local press achieved by his more flamboyant and athletic cousins, who were prominent golfers and skeet shooters. Reading between

the lines one can infer that Theodore’s avocation and perhaps greatest love was motion pictures and sound systems. He referred to himself as an audio engineer, and that is how this multi-millionaire industrialist listed his occupation in Columbus directories of his time.

“Hacienda” architect, Frank Lucius Packard, was one of America’s most prolific architects, creating more than 3400 buildings in this country and abroad. Packard started his career as an architectural apprentice in 1881, studied architecture and engineering at OSU and graduated from MIT in 1887. Returning to Columbus, in 1892 he went into partnership with Joseph Yost, acquiring full interest in the firm in 1899. While his specialty was residential architecture, Packard’s diversity of design is evident in every sort of public building, including libraries, churches, courthouses, schools, banks and hotels. In Columbus his buildings include North High School, old Veterans Memorial Hall, Great Southern Hotel and Theater, the Atlas Building, the now lost OSU Armory, the chapel and Packard and Hayden mausoleums at Greenlawn Cemetery, the Jeffrey Mansion and the Columbus Foundation (originally the home of Theodore Lindenberg’s uncle Charles). Packard’s architectural skills, acknowledged throughout the nation, were the choice of President Warren G. Harding, who commissioned Packard to design and execute the U. S. Embassy in Rio de Janeiro, then the capital of Brazil. Twelve Packard homes have been identified and documented in the Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff communities. Eight of them are clustered in Marble Cliff.

“Hacienda” remained the home of Theodore and Helen Lindenberg for 35 years. Theodore suffered a massive fatal heart attack at his home in July, 1941.



The home went on the market shortly after his sudden death. Somehow I think that Theodore Lindenberg would have been delighted that his home made it to the “Silver Screen”, is still a “Star”, and was viewed nationally on HGTV as well as locally on Channel 10TV’s “Decorator’s Show House Preview”.

Theodore Lindenberg, circa 1932, in the projection room of the Grandview Theatre, which he managed. Photo is a recent gift from the collection of Phil Sheridan.



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 \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$500.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000.00

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

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Columbus, Ohio 43212

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

Annual Meeting Scheduled

The annual meeting of Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society will be on Sunday afternoon, September 14, 2003 at 2 p.m. at Grandview Heights Public Library. The theme of the day will be the Bicentennial of the State of Ohio. Mary Ann Brown, curator and site manager of Adena, Ohio Governor Thomas Worthington's 1807 mansion outside Chillicothe, will present the story of the restoration and renovation of the site, which re-opened March 1, 2003 as the showpiece of Ohio's Bicentennial Celebration. Plans are underway for special exhibits to showcase GHMCHS collections and projects, as well as celebrate Ohio's birthday year. Please calendar September 14, and watch local media and our August newsletter for details.

King Thompson's Boulevards... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Indianola there is NO comparison. The Northwest Boulevard Addition is a proposition that will make city history! Like Indianola the Northwest Boulevard Addition is high, rolling and wooded, but Northwest Boulevard Addition is larger, more beautiful and much nearer the heart of the city.

Plat 1 of the Northwest Boulevard Addition is now ready for homes. Up on the high ridge back of Goodale Boulevard, the Northwest Boulevard Addition lays east of Grandview Avenue, the present Plat 1 extending south from First Avenue. To reach the property get off the Arlington car at Broadview and First Avenue and walk one block east."

The 'boulevard concept' had clearly been for some time in King Thompson's plans. On November 20, 1912, at a dinner for 200 Columbus businessmen, members of the Central Citizens League, Thompson outlined his proposal for a park and boulevard system along the Olentangy River, and described the parks and boulevards of St. Paul and Kansas City. On December 8, 1912, Thompson was spotlighted in the *Columbus Sunday Dispatch* cartoon feature, 'The Passing Show'. (See page 2)

(to be continued)

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

As a member of the GHMCHS Board, Sally Kosnik pursues her personal interest in local history and helps preserve and provide significant information for the rising generations. This is her second time as a Board member, having previously served as treasurer for several years in the 90's. Currently she is secretary of the society.

While living in Grandview for the past 27 years, Sally and her husband, Ed, have restored and remodeled their 1905 historic home. Four daughters, all graduates of Grandview Heights High School, have kept her busy as a community and school volunteer. She has also been employed as a registered nurse at First Community Village and at Neurological Associates.

Sally's special interests include quilting, traveling, and pursuing a family hobby of collecting antique carousel figures. Being born and raised in Iowa led to Sally's collection of over 1000 corn related items. These range from pottery to whimsical figures to professional artworks.

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

The Grandview
Heights/Marble Cliff
Historical Society

