



Grandview Heights/ Marble Cliff Historical Society

Fall 2022
Issue Number 7

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Discovering, Collecting, and Preserving Our Communities' Heritage

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe this is the **last e-newsletter for this year**. The Society is wrapping up activities for 2022 and planning for 2023. We are, as are most of you, embracing the changing seasons and getting in the holiday spirit.

In this edition, you can:

- learn about the Society's popular [History Walks](#) program and its nod to our recent **2022 Tour of Homes**.
- discover how **GHHS homecomings** have been a significant part of school and local history.
- learn about the Society's **newest display** at the [Grandview Heights Public Library \(GHPL\)](#).
- read a [Moment in Time](#) gleaned from the Society's archives (*Moment In Time Revisited*).
- **shop locally** by supporting our friends at [GHPL](#).

The Society's recent **Tour of Homes was a success**. During a delightful sunny Fall afternoon, more than **700 individuals toured** six beautiful homes. **Thank you to Trustee Karen Riggs** for her excellent work coordinating the event **and to the homeowners** who opened their homes for viewing. Also, **thanks to our many Tour of Homes volunteers**.

The Society could not achieve its purpose without the **dedication of time and talent from our Board of Trustees**. As we conclude our 48th year, I extend a thank you to the Board: Teri Alexander (Treasurer), Ruthanne James, Tracy Liberatore, Brian Kuyper, Jill Kuyper, Karen Riggs (Vice President), Kim Sides, Joanie Veri (Secretary), and Teri Williams. **An additional thank you** to Debbie Farynowski (archivist), Tom DeMaria (Facebook author), and Wayne Carlson (*Moment In Time* author). It takes a significant volunteer effort for the Society to be successful. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Members provide for the Society's ability to be the preeminent conservator of our local history. **Thank you to all our members.** As the year rolls to a close, please consider making a **year-end donation to the Society as a way to show your support.** Donations can be made online [here](#).

Many Society **resources are accessed** through both the **Society's website** at www.ghmchs.org and the **Society's digital collection** online [here](#). Also, follow the Society on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Wishing you all the happiest of holidays.

Kent Studebaker
President

Newest History Walks 2022 Tour of Homes



The newest **History Walks** tour, **2022 Tour of Homes**, offers the opportunity to stroll our communities and see **street views of the beautiful homes** showcased by the Tour. The stories of these homes offer a **peek into the history** of the residents and communities of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff.

History Walks is a collection of **10 walking tours**, each with approximately 6 - 9 stops for which associated history is described. Each tour is approximately two miles long

and will take around 1.5 hours to complete on foot. We encourage walking, running, or biking the tour routes to get the most benefit from this experience.

History Walks is a collaboration of the Society and the **GHPL**. Download the FREE app to your smart phone, tablet, or computer at grandviewhistorywalks.org, or from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).

NOTE: Most locations on the tours are private residences or businesses. Please respect the owners' privacy and observe locations from public access points only.



Grandview Heights High School Homecoming Through the Years



Think about the **origin of the word homecoming**. It all began in 1911 with an athletic director contacting University of Missouri alumni to inaugurate the new location of their football field by “coming home” to attend a football game. That is the first modern homecoming with a parade and football game.

For the **last 92 years, Grandview Heights has been celebrating homecoming**. Over the years Grandview Heights High School has chosen queens and kings, made elaborate decorations, continued annual traditions, and created firsts spanning from the 1930s to the present homecoming celebration in 2022.

Grandview Heights High School chose their **first homecoming queen in 1930**. Bonnie Jean Martin, nicknamed “Johnny”, rode in the homecoming parade (**see *Moment in Time Revisited* below**). Homecoming queens in the 1930s did not have a court of five girls, but had one maid of honor. The senior class president might escort the Queen in celebration.

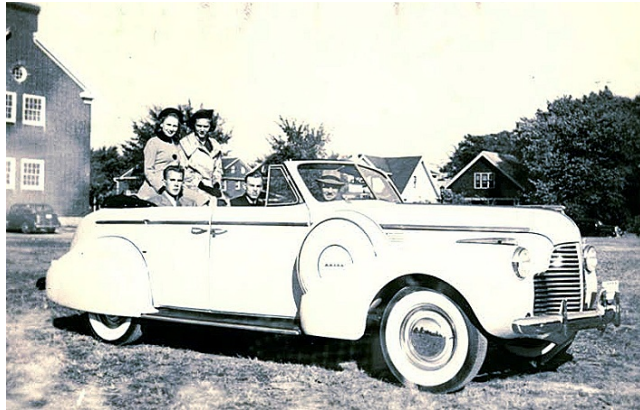
The **1940 *Ohio State Journal* highlighted Grandview Height’s queen** with this headline – “Miss King is Named Queen for Grandview Homecoming”. Miss King enjoyed the play on her name as did her classmates. In naming her maid of honor, the school stayed with royal Scottish tradition of electing a Stuart. By coincidence, her maid of honor’s name was Lee Stuart. In the mid-1940s, the student body elected 10 girls; the seniors then selected five girls, one of which would become queen. **In 1943, homecoming was described in the yearbook** as follows: “Picture it - the day was crisp and clear. Cheers rose from the stadium as the team ran out onto the field. Blue and white streamers floated in the breeze as the band played the loyalty song...the queen wished the co-captains good luck by presenting them with a kiss and a flower apiece.”

Grandview’s **homecoming queen of 1949 was Dolores “Dee” DiMenna, now Rosati**. She is now 90 years old. She was the first full-blooded Italian to serve as a Grandview Height's queen.

During World War II, tradition continued with a homecoming queen and her court. In addition, Grandview Heights would acknowledge alumni serving in the Armed Forces. **Later in the 1940s, the 1933 song "You Gotta Be A Football Hero" was sung at the football game.**

The tradition changed from the Queen kissing the co-captains to the football captain kissing the Queen. The 1950's showed no sign of kissing the Queen, the emphasis seemed to be on decorating for the event. **The 1953 picture at the top of this article shows a peacock shaped crown.**

A Grandview alum recalls: "For the **1957 homecoming** stage where the queen and her attendants sat for the assembly, Judy Whirrett Finn and I used colored chalk dust to color pampas grass for decorating around the chairs. If I remember correctly, we used various shades of pink. The queen, Mary Anne Penzone, wore a red dress. The chairs were made of wood and painted white with silver sequins pasted on for decoration. Some of the guys made them. We were guided by the art teacher, Miss Pickering (Miss Pick). In other years, white wrought iron lawn furniture was rented for the occasion. Back then a tradition was to borrow Cadillac convertibles from Upper Arlington residents to drive the queen and her court around the football field at halftime. I was one of the kids that got to go to Arlington and pick up a car and drive it to the high school. That was considered a privilege."



Occasionally in the 1960s guest speakers would be invited to the assembly. Little girls were added to the celebration to bring the queen her crown. The class president gave gifts to the homecoming court. **In 1965, Kathy McQuilkin was crowned Grandview Height's homecoming queen. She went on to become The Ohio State University's homecoming queen in 1966.**

The script "Cats" was featured during the band's halftime show in the 1970's (see picture below). Homecoming activities for Spirit Week included blue and white day, senior dress-up day, a bonfire, themed hall decorations, fence decorations, an assembly, a parade with decorated cars, and the game. This decade brought about a young boy and girl chosen to present the queen her crown. In the latter part of the 1970s, a student could win the title of Mr. Irresistible.



Homecoming firsts became prevalent in the 1980s The school's Singers choral ensemble entertained for the first time in the assembly. In 1985 there was a tie for the queen resulting in the court having six members instead of five plus a queen.

Homecoming queen ties continued in the early 1990s when there were three court members and two queens. **Over the years themes varied for hall decorations.** Theme examples were universities, favorite vacation spots, and many different Disney adaptations. Shorter style dresses became the fashion for the court. Near the end of the decade there were 10 boys and 10 girls on the court.

The 2000s brought about the addition of a homecoming king for the queen. In 2013, the only baton twirler at the time became part of the homecoming parade. During the pandemic, homecoming festivities continued. **In 2022, Grandview Heights students still appreciated “coming home.”**

Thanks to Society Trustee Jill Boyd Kuyper (GHHS '64) and Society Archivist Debbie Farynowski for providing research into GHHS Homecomings.

New Display Case



A new display case entitled “A Dig Into The Archives” located on the library’s second floor near the reference desk is just what the title suggests, small “digs” of historical items from the Founders Room archives.

To date, here have been three displays. The first display recognized past sports figures and events, the second announced our historical Tour of Homes, and currently the [Butterworth](#) family is showcased.

Stop and take a look into the history of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff.

A Moment In Time Revisited

Bonnie Jean Martin: First Grandview Heights High School Homecoming Queen

As the *Highlander* of 1931 documents the history and prophecy of the class of 1931, post-high school life was looming for all the graduates-to-be. They **willed their talents** to fellow schoolmates.

They **performed in "The Swan" and "The Queen's Husband."** They had

their baby pictures and class pictures in the yearbook, which was then called the "annual." They had a **"Thrift Club"** whose object was "to increase the number of accounts in the school bank and to promote regularity in banking".

Along with the usual sports, football and basketball, they participated in track, swimming, tennis, and **winning the first Central Buckeye League Championship in golf**. The Girls' Athletic Association sponsored tennis, hockey, basketball, Ping Pong, Foul Shooting, volleyball, baseball, and track. The calendar of the class of 1930-31 had the usual **social events**, starting with the choosing of the **first Homecoming Queen** (pictured here).

Bonnie Jean Martin was an athlete, class officer of her Freshman class, a singer in the chorus of "Why the Chimes Rang" and was in the cast of "The Swan". She was a member of the L.A.L. Sorority. Bonnie Jean, nicknamed "Johnny", lives in Upper Arlington in the same house she has lived in for 70 years. She has 10 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren. She was born November 29, 1913, and will be 99 years old this month*.



Moment in Time - reprint from November 28, 2012

A new *Moment In Time* can be found bi-weekly on the Society's [website](#) or on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). To see a collection of past *Moment in Time* offerings, [click here](#).

* Footnote: References are current to the date this *Moment in Time* was originally published. Bonnie passed away on December 11, 2012

In Memoriam Donations Received

The Society recently received **donations in memory of Marcia L. Gantz** a long-time Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff resident. Marcia was an ardent supporter of her community. She was **author of the Marble Cliff centennial cookbook** (local residents' recipes) **offered during the Society's 2001 Tour of Homes in Marble Cliff**. Thank you to Katherine Gantz and Kent and Susan Studebaker for their donations in Marcia's memory.

Supporting Our Friends at the Grandview Heights Public Library Foundation

Again this holiday season the Society is providing a bit of history for the [Grandview Heights Public Library \(GHPL\)](#)

Foundation's Holiday Gift Box. Included in this year's box is a set of four coasters that present local historical images with descriptions. The Society is one of a number of local businesses and organizations that has an item in the gift box.

The Grandview Gift Box is priced at \$45. You can order a gift box online at <https://grandviewgiftbox.org>.

The Society works very closely with the Library. The Society's **Founders Room** (archives) is located on the second floor of the Library (currently open by appointment: ghmchs@gmail.com). The Society and the Library jointly create and offer the popular app-based **History Walks** walking tour.



Thank you for supporting our friends at the [GHPL](#).

The Society's Mission



and thereby **educate the citizens of these communities and other interested persons.**

It is also to **maintain an historical archives** to support the research and preservation of the early history of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff and their environs.

For more information visit ghmchs.org.

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