



ViewPoints



January 2018

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Society Members,

Winter greetings to all! I am actually secretly a little grateful for this sub-zero weather. It gives all nature time to "sleep" and get ready to be renewed this spring. It was horribly hot and uncomfortable this summer, so for now, I am enjoying my fireplace!

We welcome our new Lifetime members:

- Rich and Laura Carter*
- Karen and Matt Cincione*
- Tim and Tess Galvin*
- Melanie Houston*
- Frank and Connie Lolli*
- Tendy Chiang and Amita Maturu*
- Lisa McNamara*
- Ed Troyer and Colleen Tootell*
- Colin and Linda Wheeler*

Our Annual Meeting at the Grandview Theatre & Drafthouse was a huge success. We were very pleased with the attendance and even welcomed some non-members who just walked in! Many thanks again to Diane Runyon for her excellent program.

Kudos to everyone on the Board for all their hard work trying to market and create new events for members to enjoy. Also thanks to Jill Kuyper and Debbie Farynowski for their tireless work on our archives, to Wayne Carlson for his never ending attention to our website, and to Tom DeMaria for his wonderful displays at the high school and his Facebook efforts.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, suggestions, or comments.

Sincerely,

Tracy Liberatore, President

THE FOUNDERS ROOM

The past 18 months or so have been transitional ones for us. We lost two of our most important Board members and had to regroup and carry on. It occurred to us one Board meeting, that the founders of the Society should be remembered and honored. We have come such a long way from our beginnings!

We decided that a formal founders' plaque would be the perfect way to commemorate the early days of the Society and its first members. We voted to use some of the funds donated to the Society in honor of the passing of Win Keller and Pat Mooney towards the venture. The plaque was designed, created, and now hangs proudly next to our Archives Room at



Society President Tracy Liberatore and Wendy Greenwood (Society friend) view the plaque at the Society's Founders Room, located in the reference area on the 2nd floor of the library.

the Library. Our founders as listed on the plaque are:

- Virginia S. Abbot
- Winifred W. Keller
- Ann M. Larrick
- Dirken T. Voelker
- Joseph H. Wyman

The Society was approved for Articles of Incorporation as a non-profit on July 17, 1974. Each member had particular roles to play, although every detail was not outlined in the Minutes back then. The idea of creating a Society was largely started by Keller, Abbot, and Larrick. They entrusted their friend and history enthusiast Voelker to handle the legal incorporation matters and then-Mayor Wyman was designated as a trustee. And so it began! We are forever in their debt for their efforts in incorporating the Society and persistence in preserving Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff history. Our newly-designated Founders Room will remind us all of them, forever.





WEATHERING THE WORST

Yes, our central Ohio winters often check all the boxes. Historically speaking, however, how bad does our winter weather get? Our brief chronology below can help you gauge, and perhaps make our 2018 winter seem mild in comparison!

- Subzero temperatures
- Gale force winds
- Drifting deep snow
- Freezing rain and ice

Year	Day(s)	Storm	Low Temp	Snowfall (inches)
1910	Jan 6	Old-Fashioned Winter	15°F	11.9"
1910	Feb 17-18	Statewide Snow	2°F	15.3"/24 hour
1918	Jan 12	Statewide Blizzard	-13°F	10" (est.); 60 mph winds
1935	Dec 25	Christmas Blizzard	-4°F	3 - 5" (est.)
1950	Nov 23-27	Great Thanksgiving Storm	5°F	7.5" (Nov 25)
1977	Jan 17	Bitter January	-19°F	0"
1978	Jan 26	Blizzard of '78	2°F	4.4"
1987	Apr 4	Record Snowfall	28°F	12.3"
1994	Jan 19	Great Cold Wave	-22°F	0"
2008	Mar 3-10	North American Blizzard	18°F (Mar 8)	15.4" (Mar 8)

1910 Old-Fashioned Winter

"...Hundreds of men and scores of horse teams were hired to clear snow from downtown (Columbus) streets....The city asked residents to push snow from the sidewalks into the gutters, where it was loaded into big wagons and moved to snow dumps..." (text from Thunder*)



Snow-bound home of Adrienne and Alfred Howell at 1100 Broadview Ave., circa 1910.

1910 Statewide Snow

The Columbus Auditorium, once located at the northeast corner of Park and Goodale Streets, collapsed from the weight of the snow. Frank Packard, the nationally-renowned architect who also designed several homes in the GH/MC area, contributed to an early remodeling of the auditorium.



The Columbus Auditorium (photo/info from Columbus Metropolitan Library digital collection).

SILENCED AT LAST



1918 Ohio newspaper cartoon depicting Statewide Blizzard.

1935 Christmas Blizzard

...Temps dropped 20 degrees in an hour, winds gusted to more than 30 mph, and blinding snow drifted onto highways” (text from Thunder)



Current Society Trustee Jackie Cherry (left) and her mother (right) in 1950 snow.

WEATHERING THE WORST (Continued)

1950 Great Thanksgiving Storm

Memoir from Art Rogers, GHHS Class of 1954

“In 1950 I was a Boy Scout in Troop 73. One of the Boy Scout activities in Columbus at that time was to usher at all of Ohio State’s football games. The last time I ushered was the famous “Snow Bowl” game when the Buckeye’s played Michigan. The routine was to go to Ohio Stadium early, get assigned to a section to usher, show people to their seats and sort of stay on duty until after the half. Then we were free to do as we pleased, which was usually to see the rest of the game.

As I recall, and it has been 67 years ago, the weather was cloudy and a bit cool when my dad dropped me and other scouts off at the stadium. As time passed and the game proceeded, it got colder and colder and began to snow. By the end of the first half, it was a full scale blizzard. I was on C deck and completely exposed to the weather. But I was near the goal line at one end of the field. I remember looking down and seeing everything in grey and white, even the players, and not being able to tell the difference in the uniforms. I think I saw a touchdown and wondered how they knew where the goal line was. Everything became white, including the air. It was fascinating until I realized I couldn’t feel my fingers, even though I had really good gloves.

At that time our next door neighbor on Haines Avenue were the Webbs. Shirley Webb was in my class at Grandview. Her dad was the pilot for the Highway Patrol airplane and her mother a registered nurse. Mrs. Webb happened to be on duty at the First Aid station at the stadium that day. So, when I lost the feeling in my fingers, I went under the stadium to the First Aid station to see her. She had me take off my gloves and put my hands over a stove they had at the station for heat. At first, I touched the stove top and felt nothing. I was advised to pull away, and gradually feeling came back. But I wanted to go home. Mrs. Webb let me use the phone and I called Dad who told me the roads were too bad for him to get out. Mrs. Webb had offered me a ride if I waited for her to get off at the end of the game. I told Dad I would ride home with her.

I was with two other restless and cold scouts, and we decided we couldn’t wait that long. So we walked. All the way from Ohio Stadium to Grandview. I think that is about three or four miles, which isn’t so far when you are 14. But it sure seemed far at the time.”



WEATHERING THE WORST (Continued)

1977 Bitter January

“...January 1977 was the coldest month in Ohio since records began in 1883. Statewide average was 11.9 degrees, nearly 17 degrees colder than normal...” (text from Thunder*). Columbia Gas asked residential customers to keep their thermostats below 65 degrees (brrrr!).

1978 Blizzard of '78

“A raging blizzard was in progress statewide, whipping 6 to 12 inches of snow into deep drifts as high as the second story homes in the northwestern portion of the state. The wind reached 69 mph at Columbus... Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes declared a state of emergency, urging residents not to attempt travel in the midst of the blinding snowstorm that gradually tapered off on January 26. Yet the wind continued to whip the snow into mountainous drifts, some as high as 10 to 25 feet....An estimated 175,000 residents lost electricity for several days, and schools and businesses would remain shuttered for nearly a week...The Ohio Army National Guard placed the number of Ohioans rescued at more than 10,000 by truck, and another 2,700 were picked up by Ohio Air National Guard helicopter flights... Fifty-one Ohioans perished in the storm, nearly half while leaving their vehicles that had become stranded...” (text from nbc4i.com)



Snow gets a nod in the GHHS yearbook (photo from 1978 Highlander).

Trees throughout GH/MC cracked in the Blizzard of '78. This tree crushed a car at 1204 Lincoln Ave. (photo from Tri-Village News).

1994 Great Cold Wave

The -22 degrees temperature made January 19, 1994, the coldest day ever in Columbus history, breaking a record set in the 1800s.

Memoir from Mandy Agler, GHHS Class of 1999

“In the winter of 1993-94, when I was in the seventh grade, Grandview received an amazing combination of precipitation and temperature that turned the neighborhood into an endless ice rink. There were several inches of snow, which smoothed out all the grass and sidewalk below it, followed by a half inch of freezing rain, then a temperature drop to cement it in place. Trees, cars, plants, everything was encased in nearly a half inch of ice. The ice was so thick that it didn’t break when you stood on it. My sister Jessica (GHHS Class of 2001) and I owned ice skates and delighted in the novelty of ice skating in our own back yard. I skated down the sidewalk on First Avenue from my house on Glenn to meet my classmate Jackie Dong at the field between the Jr. High and High School. Her mom video taped us making silly attempts at figure skating tricks and spins over an enormous ice rink that just the day before had been a grassy field.”



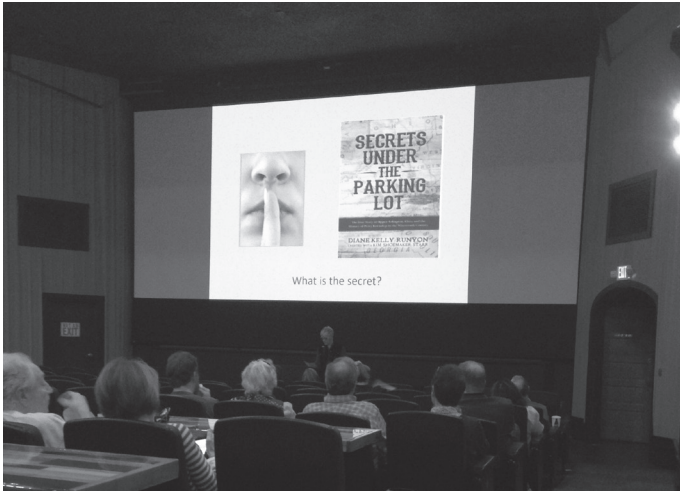
TIM REVELL | DISPATCH

In February 2007, Steve Newton, a GHS teacher, said he’d serve hot chocolate at Wyman Woods sledding hill if school were canceled. It was, and he did, to Laynee Mikanik, 11, left, and Rhoda Hansen, 12, both GHHS Class of 2013 (photo and caption from Columbus Dispatch).

*Referenced text and some weather data from “Thunder in the Heartland; A Chronicle of Outstanding Weather Events in Ohio”, Schmidlin & Schmidlin, 1996; additional data in table on Page 2 from Weather Underground; ohiohistory.org; and National Weather Service.



2017 Annual Meeting Highlights



The Grandview Theater & Drafthouse was a great venue for this year's Annual Meeting.



The crowd enjoyed free food and drink, and viewed Society merchandise available for purchase.



Co-authors Kim Starr (left) and Diane Runyon (right) sign copies of their Secrets Under the Parking Lot book for meeting attendees.



Teri Alexander, Principal at Alexander Financial Planning, Inc., was one of two new Society trustees approved at the meeting; see Teri's bio in the July 2016 ViewPoints.



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/MCHS**

Mail or drop off at the **Grandview Heights Public Library, 1685 West First Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212**

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ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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Please check the appropriate membership box:

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YEARLY DUES (SEPT. 1 – AUG. 31)

- Single \$20
- Couple \$30
- Organization \$50

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

ONE-TIME PAYMENT

- Single \$100
- Couple \$150
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1000



Gone Green!

For several years, the GH/MCHS has posted a notice in *ViewPoints* that we are moving to electronic distribution of our newsletter. This move allows us to distribute *ViewPoints* to you more efficiently and helps the Society save money by cutting printing and mailing costs. **This January 2018 *ViewPoints* will be the last issue distributed to members in hard copy.**

If you are receiving this issue in hard copy, please provide your current email address and phone number via email to: kentestudebaker@gmail.com

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A REQUEST

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ViewPoints is an occasional publication of the GH/MCHS.

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