



ViewPoints



June 2008

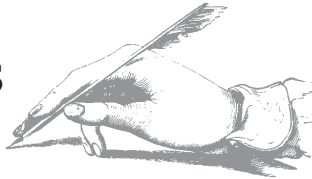
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www.ghmchs.org

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



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members,

It's that special time of year again, when everything has turned green, and the joys of June are upon us, after a spring of glorious bloom, the most splendid in years. Little League has begun, and the smell of barbecue wafts across back yards. It's always a happy time for me to open up my patio, and enjoy visiting with friends on front porches.

We are working on new and exciting projects. Tom DeMaria has continued his work with the 4th Grade at Edison Intermediate Middle School. Students designed their own movie projects about the history of their school. GH/MCHS Board is happy to see that the school staff is tapping into our website information.

Our newest project is a whimsical one: historical playing cards. Each deck will carry fifty different photographs from the society's collection. Stay alert for these decks to go on sale sometime this summer at Music on the Lawn and Lazy Daze. We will be present at all of these community events, with membership information and all our other publications available.

Another exciting event in the planning stages is Grandview Heights/Marble cliff Historical Society's annual membership meeting. We're trying something new this year. Our annual meeting will be a program held in conjunction with Grandview Heights Public Library. The theme is "Weird Ohio" and features James Willis, author of the book by the same name. His focus is on paranormal sites around the Buckeye State. The program features visuals, and will include audience participation. The date is Sunday, October 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m. at the library. Watch library publicity and our next newsletter for more details.

Enjoy the summer! Happy Fourth of July!

Sincerely,

*Tracy Liberatore, President
tliberat@wowway.com*

DEATH OF A CHARACTER



1922 - Dude, Field Days

Before newspaper cartoon strips were relegated to the limbo of a mere insert among the advertising glossies of the Sunday edition, there was a time when the stories they carried were of great significance in American popular culture.

We were reminded of those times while reading Robert C. Harvey's recent biography of cartoonist Milton Caniff (1907-1988): *MEANWHILE...A Biography of Milton Caniff*, Creator of Terry and the Pirates and Steve Canyon (Seattle, 2007).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DEAL US IN!

Stay alert for our new Grandview/Marble Cliff Photo Playing Cards, which will soon be available at GH/MCHS table at Music on the Lawn, Tuesday evenings through the summer.

This issue sponsored by

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DEATH OF A CHARACTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Caniff was a Hillsboro native and OSU graduate, whose papers formed the founding nucleus of the prestigious OSU Cartoon Research Library. The biography was underwritten, in part, by a grant from the Milton Caniff Endowment of the Cartoon Research Library.

When Raven Sherman, a "Terry" character who ran a refuge for Chinese orphans, died in the arms of her lover, Dude Hennick, on October 16, 1941, after lingering for 11 daily installments, public outcry was instantaneous. The elevator operator in Caniff's New York building called him a murderer, employees of a candy company had a casket blanket of flowers shipped to him, and for more than forty years grief-stricken cards edged in black arrived in his mailbox.

It was generally known that "Terry" character Dude Hennick was Caniff's first character based on real life, and there was an assumption that Raven also had a living counterpart.

Dude Hennick was in fact based on Frank "Dude" Higgs (1907-1945), Grandview native and OSU classmate and friend of Milton Caniff. Caniff had begun the strip in 1934, with a story line involving situations with Chinese pirates and warlords. By 1937 the Japanese had invaded China and the Sino-Japanese War was in full swing. In March 1938 Terry entered the war. Henry Luce, publisher of Time and Life, had grown up in China and covered the war extensively, despite the United States' official neutrality, providing a source of realistic detail for Caniff.

In late spring 1938 Frank Higgs, who was in New York, called Caniff with the information that he had resigned his commission in the U. S. army Air Corps, and was leaving for Kunming, China to

help Claire Chennault train Chinese pilots for Chiang Kai-Shek's fledgling air force. And so was born Caniff's Dude Hennick character, based on Frank Higgs' appearance and mannerisms, eyebrows straight across, shock of dark hair, and extroverted behavior. The

Dude's cartoon surname memorialized Herb Hennick's restaurant at 15th and High, a favorite college hangout, where Caniff had once earned a week's meals by decorating the walls with portraits of campus heroes. For the next seven years "Dude" Higgs' letters to Caniff provided a first-hand source of authentic China detail for Terry and the Pirates.

In November 1945 the Higgs family and Caniff received word that Frank Higgs had died in the crash of a plane he was piloting, taking supplies for Chiang Kai-Shek from China to Taiwan. Sabotage was suspected. Caniff honored his friend and confidant in the cartoon strip of December 25, 1945. (See....)

In a note of sympathy to Caniff, Clare Both Luce wrote, "I shall always feel a sense of personal gratitude to him for the hitchhike he gave me out of Burma in the Stilwell retreat days. Things might have been very different with me if he had not

come into Lashio on the bombed-out field and taken me to Kunming.

Dude Higgs was a romantic figure, full of a quiet and gay courage. It is men like him who have helped to fill what Wendell Wilkie once called "the reservoir of good will" for America in China." (Harvey, p. 491)

For more information, visit gbmchs.org/giggs-story.html

Also recommended: "The Biggest Events in Comic History" at www.cagle.com and cartoons@osu.edu



Dude Higgs in his Chinese National Aviation Corporation Uniform.

Caption

TERRY AND THE PIRATES

DO YOU REMEMBER DUDE HENNICK? TO GIVE THE NEWER READERS OF THIS STRIP A QUICK FILL-IN: - DUDE WAS A REALLY HOT PILOT WITH WHOM TERRY LEE HAD MANY ADVENTURES BEFORE WE ENTERED THE SHOOTING WAR... IT WAS HE WHO FIRST STEERED TERRY'S INTEREST TOWARD AVIATION... AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE BLUE MYSTERY OF THE SKY.

AS HAS OFTEN BEEN THE CASE IN THIS STRIP, DUDE WAS PATTERNED AFTER A REAL PERSON... HIS LIVING COUNTERPART HAD THE SAME WIDE BUCCANEER-BLACK BROWS, CLOSE-CUT HAIR AND THE SHADED EYES OF THE MEN WHO MUST STARE INTO WEATHER.

LIKE HIS ACTUAL DOUBLE HENNICK HAD BEEN A U.S. ARMY FIGHTER PILOT WHO RESIGNED HIS COMMISSION TO GO TO CHINA IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE JAPANESE AGGRESSION AS A CIVILIAN FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR FOR CHINESE AIR CADETS.

THE MODEL FOR DUDE HENNICK WAS CAPT. FRANK HIGGS, A CLASSMATE OF MINE AT OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY... DURING THE BITTER, BARREN WAR YEARS HE FLEW UNARMED CARGO AIRCRAFT OVER THE HUMP INTO CHINA - UNTIL HE WAS KILLED IN A CRASH IN THE HILLS SOUTH OF SHANGHAI...

TODAY YOUR MIND WILL BE ON YOUR PARTICULAR GOOD JOE WHO DIDN'T COME BACK FOR CHRISTMAS... BUT IF YOU LIKED DUDE HENNICK YOU MAY WISH TO SPARE A THOUGHT FOR FRANK HIGGS... DUDE DIED WITH HIM...

Caption



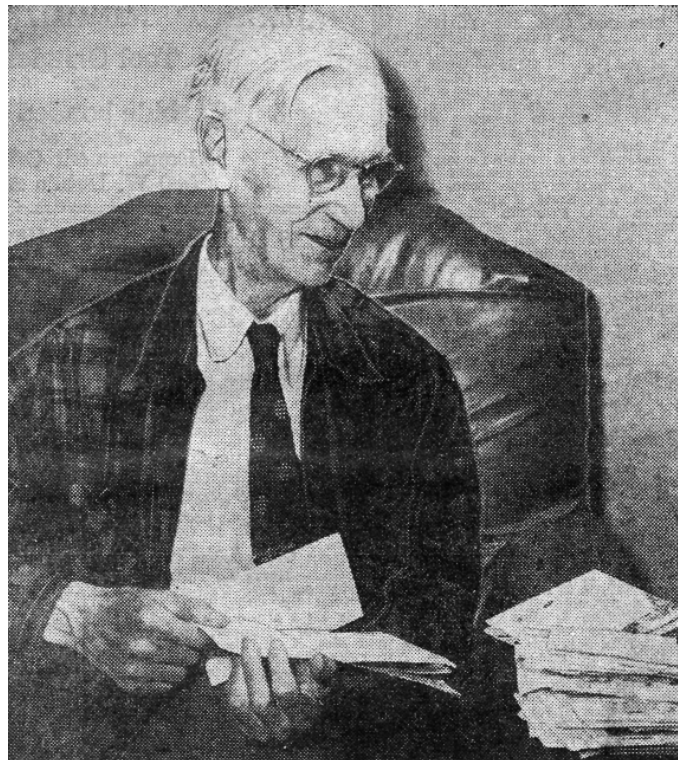
Retrospectives

These newspaper clipping photos are from the scrapbooks of Alleyne Higgs Jones, part of the collection of Jones-Higgs memorabilia donated to the society in 2004 by Alleyne's three children. All of the early Grandview residents in the photos built and/or resided in homes on Westwood Avenue and Wyandotte Road, from 1906-1912 until their deaths. "Harriet Kirkpatrick of Westwood Avenue: Artist, Activist, Teacher"



"Charter members of the Columbus Art League, still active after 50 years, are: Harriet Kirkpatrick, continuous exhibitor; John E. Hussey, dean of Columbus Art School 50 years ago." (The photo appeared in *The Columbus Dispatch* in 1960.)

appeared in ViewPoints, August 2005; "Uncovering the Story: Grandview Heights Founding Resident John E. Hussey" in August 2006; and Professor Paddock was mentioned in December 2007 in "The Legacy of Patricia Paddock Todd" (his granddaughter). [All previous issues of *ViewPoints* newsletters can be accessed from the society website: ghmchs.org



"Reading one of the more than 200 cards and letters he received on his 84th birthday is Prof. Wendell Paddock. (The *Columbus Citizen*, July 19, 1950)

"THE DAFFODIL MAN"

Every spring for nearly a century Grandview residents have been enjoying the daffodils spilling down the bluffside below 1085 Westwood Avenue. They are a legacy of Professor Wendell Paddock, "The Daffodil Man," who purchased the home when he joined Ohio State's horticulture department in 1909. He retired in 1940 as professor emeritus and chair of the department. A native of southwest Michigan, raised in a log house built by his father, Paddock graduated from Michigan State at age 29 after teaching for years in country schools. He came to OSU from Colorado State.



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 _____

EMAIL _____

Please check the appropriate membership box:

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YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1-SEPT. 30)

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP
ONE-TIME PAYMENT

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



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Contact Editor Patrick Mooney
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ideas or to discuss photo contributions.

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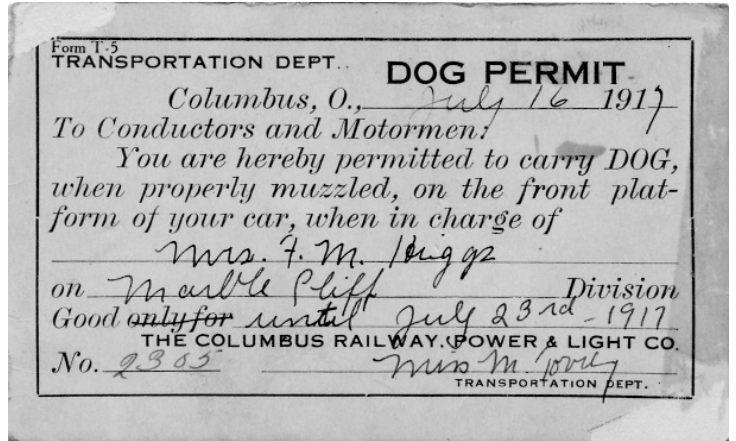
We are compiling e-mail addresses to improve our communications.

Please include your e-mail on membership renewal form, or e-mail

President Tracy Liberatore at:
tliberat@wowway.com.

Thanks!

Dog Permit



This curious bit of transportation history is from the scrapbooks of Alleyne Higgs Jones.



Just How Weird is Ohio?

Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.

From spooky and disturbing to downright weird, author and paranormal researcher **James Willis** tells tales from his popular book, *Weird Ohio*.

This event begins with a 10-minute annual meeting of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society, which is sponsoring the program with funding generously donated in memory of Patricia Todd. Learn more about Grandview's and Marble Cliff's fascinating history at www.ghmch.org.



1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

The Grandview
Heights/Marble Cliff
Historical Society

