



ViewPoints



June 2011

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

Windows to the Past



The photo above appeared on the June 1924 cover of *Jeffrey Service*, the house organ of Jeffrey Manufacturing, a major Columbus industry. It is the work of Fred A. Behmer, Sr., at that time a resident of Wyandotte Road in Grandview Heights. Behmer was chief photographer for Jeffrey Manufacturing for nearly 50 years.

In the photo, taken in a GHHS classroom, are Irene Hankinson, Assistant Principal and math teacher of Grandview Junior High School; Milton M. Williams, Superintendent of Grandview Heights Public Schools and Upper Arlington Public Schools; and students Doris Sutton and Bob Springer, both GHHS 1928. Williams left Grandview Schools the next year. In 1925 Irene Hankinson married Thomas Newton Brown, former Grandview Heights High School Principal, teacher at West High School in Columbus. Their son, Herbert Russell Brown, is a Columbus attorney, former Ohio Supreme Court Justice (1987-1993), novelist and playwright.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members,

Sure feels like summer is on it's way now! I love after Mother's Day, when everyone begins to plant annuals and seeing ferns sway in the breeze on porches! We have seen another class of GHHS graduates on their way, and the past couple of weeks have been filled with graduation parties and gatherings. It's so nice for the adults too, as some of us aren't at all the events we used to be when we had students enrolled. It was very nice for me, personally, to see so many familiar faces!

The Society has been working on our usual projects, including our summer presence at Lazy Daze (we'll be there!) and Music on the Lawn. It is our hope that some of the younger families in the community will join our Society and become involved. We will be making appearances at all the Music on the Lawn concerts in an effort to do just that, as well as the Grandview Farmer's Market on occasion. Board member Jane Harris will very soon be "reconditioning" and refreshing our historical display cases in the Bank Block breezeway. Be sure to stop by and see it for yourself!

Tom DeMaria has done an excellent job of keeping the High School Historical Society showcase filled with interesting memorabilia and I've heard from many that it's very much admired. The students even stop to view the displays.

Our newest and largest project is headed by Win Keller and Jeri Diehl Cusack, the Archives Committee. They have done a fabulous job of straightening up the room, discarding items that are duplicated, etc. Thanks to both of you! Wayne Carlson has been a boon to us as well. He headed up the purchase of all new computer/scanning equipment and implemented an entirely new computerized archiving system. Please read the in-depth article in this newsletter regarding this. This new committee and what it represents is a huge step for the Society — for the better of the community and our members.

Finally, I would like to ask that you all attend our Annual Meeting in October. Tom DeMaria and Wayne Carlson have put together a truly interesting program. Please refer to the article in this newsletter for details - you will certainly enjoy it!

As always, your comments are welcomed by me. Feel free to jot me an email anytime at tliberat@wowway.com.

Enjoy the summer and enjoy your loved ones!

Sincerely,
Tracy Liberatore
President

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Windows to the Past

(Continued from page 1)

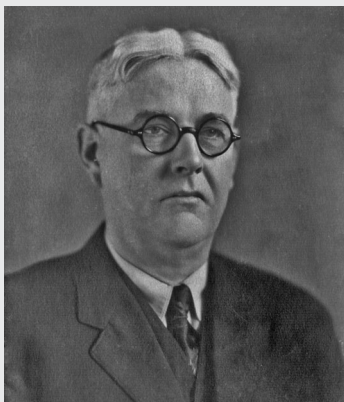


The November-December 1928 *Jeffrey Service* cover photo by Fred A. Behmer, Sr. Pictured in their living room at 1576 West First Avenue are three members of the C. J. Leifeld family. Leifeld was Jeffrey Manufacturing Purchasing Agent.

The caption reads, in part: "During the latter part of August a successful demonstration was made in New York City whereby radio engineers produced images in a television test." "... Leifeld is shown giving his two youngsters a treat with his television set. Santa Claus is on his way and Martha Jane and Jack are anxiously watching him."



The *Jeffrey Service* cover photo for April, 1924. "The marble season is on. On the street corners, in the school yards, and in the recreational centers you will find boys enjoying their games of marbles. Puries, agates, imitations, crystals or glassies, snowflakes, crockers or potties, witchies, chinies, whities or commies, all have their value to the boy." "...The group of boys on the cover page was found on Goodale St., near the Godman Guild House."



Philip Skeele

Edison School Turns 100!

GHMCHS trustees Tom DeMaria and Wayne Carlson presented an hour program, "Happy Birthday, Edison" on May 17, 2011 at the Grandview Heights Public Library. The program celebrated the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Grandview Public School building on Fairview Avenue. Today this building comprises the east wing of Edison Intermediate and Middle School. The building contained 8 classrooms and cost \$50,000 in 1911. The program featured photographs and memorabilia, including a copy of the prophetic 1912 dedication speech by Marble Cliff resident, Philip Skeele, a school board member at the time.

The May 17 program was designed as a teaser for the Society's annual meeting, scheduled for Thursday evening, October 13, 2011 in the east wing of Edison school. We will celebrate the centennial of this building, which has served generations of Grandview students. More details will be forthcoming



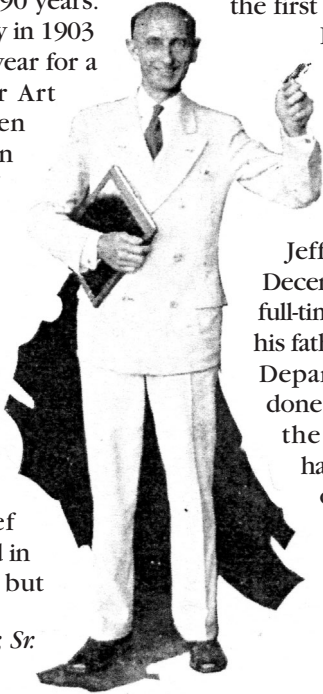
JEFFREY PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Fred A. Behmer, Sr. (1885-1972) & Fred A. Behmer, Jr. (1908-1968)

The Behmers, father and son, served as Jeffrey Manufacturing photographers for a combined total of nearly 90 years.

Fred, Sr. joined Jeffrey in 1903 at age 17. He left after a year for a two-year stint at Baker Art Gallery of Columbus, then the largest photo studio in the country. In 1906-1907 he was the entire photo staff of the Ohio Sun, a Columbus newspaper. Fred, Sr. was the first local news photographer to cover out-of-town OSU games and owned the first Graflex camera used for press work in Columbus. Returning to Jeffrey in 1908 as Chief Photographer, he remained in that position until 1953, but

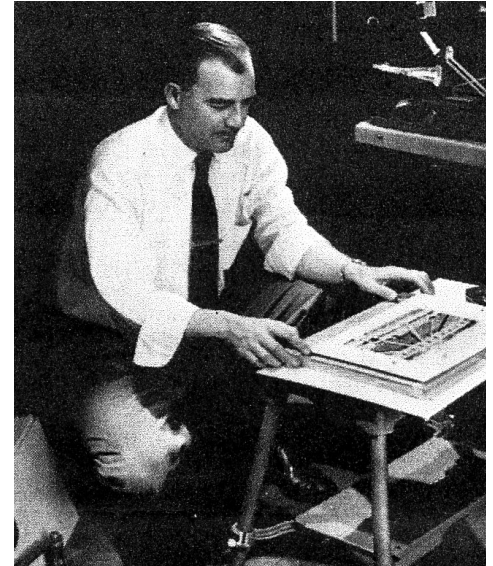
*Fred A. Behmer, Sr.
1927*



continued at Jeffrey for a number of years after stepping down. In 1910 Fred, Sr. made the first big photo blowups in Columbus.

He made photographs for Jeffrey in the 48 states, Canada, and Mexico, including movies of Jeffrey machinery at work, which were begun in 1924.

Fred A. Behmer, Jr. (GHHS 1926) began working part-time for Jeffrey while he was at OSU and in December 1933 joined his dad at Jeffrey, full-time. In May 1953 Fred, Jr. succeeded his father as head of Jeffrey Photography Department. By this time, he also had done Jeffrey industrial photography in the 48 states, Canada and Mexico, having succeeded his father in much of the "road work."



Fred A. Behmer, Jr. 1953

Editor's Note: During research for this article, Patrick Mooney discovered that he is a third cousin to Fred A. Behmer, Jr. on the line of Fred's mother, Sophia Page Behmer. Many thanks for their valuable assistance to Terry Smith, and to my new-found cousin, daughter of Fred, Jr., Pat Behmer Preble (GHHS 1946).

Archives Committee Update

The GH/MCHS Archives Committee has officially begun the exciting yet time-consuming project of organizing the Society's collection to better facilitate the use of its many resources.

The Society's room within the Grandview Library has been cleared of clutter and is now furnished with an upgraded computer and a new scanner and desk which will allow us to begin the process of cataloguing and eventually digitizing significant items in the collection.

We anticipate that this process will also lead to another valuable partnership. The Society and the Library are looking forward to eventually having GH/MCHS materials included and available online through the Library's PhotOhio Project.

The Historical Society is especially pleased to welcome a graduate student, Amy Crow, who will be doing a practicum with us this summer. Her expertise and training in archival techniques and management will greatly assist the Board in accomplishing the goals of the Archives Committee. (See Amy's bio below.)

Volunteers will be needed to continue the work begun by Ms. Crow once her 100-hour practicum is completed. Anyone who might be interested in assisting Archive committee Chairs Win Keller and Jeri Diehl Cusack in this continuing project is invited to contact us at jcusack@columbus.rr.com.

Please keep the Historical Society in mind if you have real estate abstracts, family memorabilia, or any other items of local interest which you would like to share with us. We are now able to scan your treasures and return the originals to you in timely fashion.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeri Diehl Cusack

Amy Crow, a native of Columbus, is a student at Kent State university. She will be graduating in August with a master's degree in Library and Information Science. Amy has a bachelor's degree in history from The Ohio State University. She is a genealogist, with deep roots in Ohio. After graduation, Amy would like to pursue work in archives and digital libraries.



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 _____

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Please check the appropriate membership box:

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- Single \$100.00
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- Organization \$500.00
- Benefactor \$1000.00



Breezeway Update

The "breezeway" in the Bank Block building on Grandview Avenue will be refreshed and updated in the near future. We plan to keep the Bank Block History window intact, per our agreement with the Wagenbrenner Company. The Urlin's Grand View subdivision window will be refreshed and new material added. New material in the other display windows will include a feature on Grandview Heights resident G. Edwin Smith, president of the G. Edwin Smith Shoe Company and the Columbus YMCA.

Present GH/MCHS publications will be featured. Another new display will be photo documentation of recent area reconstruction and renovation, including Grandview Yard, the Grandview Theatre, the new 4-story retail/residence (The Windsor) which replaces the Kingswood Building on Grandview Avenue north of Third, and new private residences and apartment buildings.

Query: Can anyone help us document when the "breezeway" was cut through from Grandview Avenue to the parking lot?

GHHS MARCHING BAND PROJECT

The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society has initiated a project to collect historical information on the Grandview Heights High School marching band. The goal of the project is a new GH/MCHS publication on the history of the GHHS marching band. The Society is looking for any and all information on the marching band from past directors, past and current marching band members, and graduated band members who have continued with a career in music. Photos, memoirs (of the Cake Walk, football programs, songs played, band camp) and memorabilia (e.g., old band programs) are all welcome. Interviews can be scheduled to record personal memoirs or an information form can be provided. Please contact Karen Riggs, GH/MCHS Board Member, at riggsghmchs@yahoo.com if you can contribute.

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



1685 West First Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43212

EDITOR
Patrick Mooney

DESIGN/PRODUCTION
Melissa Rady

Contact Editor Patrick Mooney
(614-225-0130) for any interesting article
ideas or to discuss photo contributions.

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