



ViewPoints



October 2008

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AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Society Members,

Hopefully, everyone survived the September 14 Hurricane Ike windstorm and accompanying electrical outage without much damage.

Now we turn the corner on another season: Welcome to Fall!!! we'll have the last of the green tomatoes, and watch the trees begin to take on their beautiful colors, and hear the Grandview Heights High School Band playing our fight song during some football games.

The Society has been working on the usual tasks: keeping the website updated, making sure you're informed with ViewPoints, handling day-to-day requests for information, and continuing to add to our archives.

I offer the following as recent highlights:

Our newest "publication": Decks of playing cards with historic Grandview and Marble Cliff photographs. These are not a major fundraiser, but rather an "awareness" project. They were first offered for sale at LazyDaze, and sold very well. We will likely need to reorder soon. They will be available at any local event where we have a presence, and can be obtained by contacting me or any board member.

Our presence at local public events: Many thanks to Jeri Diehl Cusack, Win Keller, and Ruthanne James for the constant presence at Grandview Public Library's Music on the Lawn series. They mingled, they chatted, they got things going for the Society. Publications were sold and memberships promoted.

Continuing publication sales: Sales have been higher this summer than I can remember. Lazy Daze, in particular, was a huge sales success. People swarmed our table. Italian Heritage sold especially well.

Composites project: We will soon be hanging the first of the restored composite photographs of Grandview Heights High School graduating classes. The composites which have been collected so far have been digitized, and will be framed and returned to school hallways. A dedication time will be announced.

The biggest news is our 2008 Annual Meeting. We are so excited about it! We believe the change in date and time will be worthwhile, and are proud to present "Weird Ohio" in cooperation with Grandview Heights Public Library. Read to details on this page. At the event we will be hosting a "donation table" inviting anyone to lend or donate historical memorabilia. See you there!

Our business meeting will be short: we must ask member approval for term renewal of several board members, and for a new board member nominee, Jane Harris. Jane is a great friend of the Society, and has been instrumental in the ongoing high school class composites project.

Until the "spooky" Annual Meeting!

Sincerely,

Tracy Liberatore, President
614-488-0425 tliberat@wowway.com

SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING Promises Unusual Content

Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday evening, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Grandview Heights Public Library. In a departure from our traditional format, we are partnering with the library to provide an evening which we hope will be attractive to all generations.

James Willis, paranormal researcher and an author of *Weird Ohio*, will dip into the popular book and tell tales from spooky and disturbing to downright weird. The presentation will include visuals and time for questions from the audience. The author's appearance is being funded by GH/MC Historical Society from donations given in memory of Patricia Paddock Todd.

The evening will begin with a short Society business meeting, to include renewal of board member terms and the approval of a new board member, along with a brief annual report of the society's activities. (For more detail, see page three.)

Cider and doughnuts will be offered, and all society publications will be for sale. The new historical playing cards make ideal stocking stuffers. Memberships can be renewed and new and gift memberships at this table.

An Archival Donation Table will be a new feature, where historical items can be dropped off for donation, or the Society will make copies, if donors wish. We are especially interested in home Abstracts of Title, vintage magazines of local interest, and scrapbooks. Society archives continue to grow because of generous contributions. No item, if of historical interest, lacks significance in documenting community history.

Please join us on Tuesday evening,
October 21 at 7:00 pm. and help your Society
expand its outreach!

This issue sponsored

IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA PADDOCK TODD





MYSTERIOUS GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS

Many older Grandview-ites but perhaps few newer residents are aware that Grandview Heights Police department files harbor a "cold case" once of major interest, dating from 1946 and for many years now an open but inactive file.

Beautiful Lola Celli, a 24 year-old teacher in West Mansfield, Ohio, visiting her childhood home and family on West Third Avenue for Washington's Birthday weekend, was last seen on Saturday



Lola Celli

morning, February 23, 1946 walking toward a bus stop at Cambridge Boulevard and West Third, on her way to shop for a blouse and scarce nylon hosiery in downtown Columbus.

The report filed on February 23, 1947 by Grandview Heights Police Chief Robert R. Livingston summarizes a long sequence of investigations, reported supposed sightings of Miss Celli in Ohio and other locations, searches of various areas of Grandview, Marble Cliff, and Columbus, interviews with many neighborhood residents and associates of Lola Celli at Ohio State University and West Mansfield Schools. Many theories were advanced, many leads followed, but no conclusive evidence has ever been found. The report concludes with the terse: "Pending." Attached to the chief's report are addenda from 1954 and 1955 investigations, also faithfully pursued, and equally inconclusive.

Newspaper headlines from 1946 included:

TEACHER HUNTED IN 8 STATES POLICE GIVEN REPORT AUTO PICKED UP GIRL STUDENT POSSE SEARCHES FOR CLUES

"At the suggestion of Chief of Police, Village of Marble Cliff, Ohio, reporting officer organized a search of area from Grandview Avenue north to Trabue Pike, along the Scioto River, and bordered on the north and east by the Pennsylvania Railroad. This search was conducted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Upper Arlington Police Department, Grandview Heights Police Department, and approximately 150 Upper Arlington and Grandview High School students. This search was conducted with negative results. This search was conducted and concluded on March 1, 1946."

—from Chief Livingston's report.

We wonder if any high school students of 1946 remember their participation in this event. If so, we invite you to share your memory with us.

(Appreciation of Grandview Heights Police Detective Harper for assistance.)

ANOTHER MYSTERY

It has recently come to our attention that there supposedly exists, somewhere within Grandview Heights City boundaries, a wooded area with a number of grave markers, too badly eroded to be read. We do not recall having heard this story before.

Can any reader help?

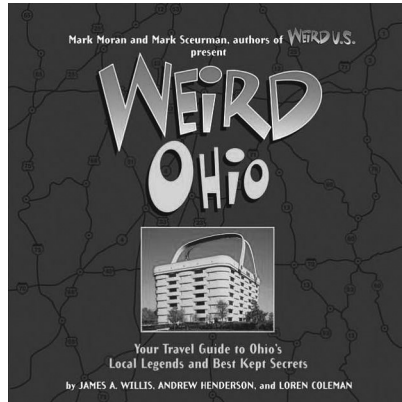


Weird Ohio; Your Travel Guide to Ohio's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets.

by James A. Willis, Andrew Henderson, and Loren Coleman. 286 pp. New York, Sterling Publishing: 2005.

Lavishly illustrated and wide-ranging, this addition to the "Weird series" will open the eyes of Ohio-philes usually given to promoting Ohio's political significance, past achievements in invention and industry, or its agricultural base and scenic attractions. For, behold, Willis *et al.* have collected data and abundant color photographs which document an Ohio packed with more than its fair share of the bizarre.

Ranging from Ohio State University's five sites among listings of "Institutional Infestations" to tales of Columbus Mental Hospital Cemeteries, our Central Ohio area gets its share of attention. The authors would have done better, however, to consult with Columbus Landmarks Foundation folks, who regularly offer a ghostly tour of properly spine-tingling sites around the city. An updated edition of *Weird Ohio* should note that the Seneca Hotel is no longer "abandoned" but has made a comeback.



Author Willis claims that Ohio "is so wonderfully weird because Ohioans just tend to look at things differently." Maybe so. Willis came to Ohio from New York State in 1999 and founded Ghosts of Ohio (www.ghostsofOhio.org), a paranormal research organization. Andrew Henderson runs the website Forgotten Ohio, and his first book, *Forgotten Columbus*, was published in 2002. Willis and Henderson both live in Columbus.

"Travel Guide" in the book's title is a misnomer; you're on your own finding detailed directions to many sites, and, of

course, in the case of hauntings, schedules are notoriously erratic. *Weird Ohio* does make a fine coffee table flip-through, and a great conversation starter. Every neighborhood has its tales. Why, we in Grandview remember the house which gradually was filled to overflowing with neighborhood discards, all collected during the hours of darkness! Weird!

2007-2008 GH/MCHS Report to Members

Another busy and successful year! Here are the highlights:

- 2007 Annual Meeting was Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m in Grandview Heights Public Library, and featured a presentation by Jeffrey Darbee, "Communities of Distinction," which focused on historic preservation as a core contribution to creating livable communities. Darbee is a member of the firm Benjamin D. Rickey & Co., currently under contract as consultants to Grandview Heights City Council.
- The popular *ThisWeek Grandview* feature, "Moments in Time," continued under the able direction of Wayne Carlson and Tom DeMaria.
- The Society's occasional newsletter, *ViewPoints*, continues under the editorship of Patrick Mooney. Melissa Rady continues to provide layout and production *gratis* to the society, for which we are very grateful.
- Tom DeMaria continues his role as Grandview Heights Schools liaison. This year Tom's projects included assisting Edison Elementary students in community historical research.
- A major effort has been underway this year in locating, digitizing, copying, and framing Grandview Heights High School graduating class composite photographs. These composites once hung in the school hallways, and were unfortunately lost after years of storage. Our relationship with Grandview Alumni Association has been particularly fruitful in collecting personal copies from members of the community. The first set of restored composites will soon appear in the high school hallways.
- A new Society project in recent months has been the publication of a set of playing cards with 54 historic photographs of Grandview and Marble Cliff. Sales have been excellent.
- Kudos to Win Keller, Ruthanne James, and Jeri Diehl Cusack for their faithful dedication to maintaining the society's presence at Music on the Lawn and Lazy Daze of Summer. The latter event saw high sales volume of our publications and much public interest. Ruthanne also volunteered to staff a Society table at Columbus Landmarks Foundation's recent walking tour of Marble Cliff and Grandview architecture.
- Treasurer Tom DeMaria certifies that the society is in the best financial condition in its history.
- Membership Chair Karen Riggs reports a membership of 155 individuals, in 58 annual and 57 life memberships. During the past year we welcomed new life members



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:

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

E-MAIL REQUEST

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!

A SPECIAL MEMORY

Among memories shared in a recent interview, Theresa Magi Frabott enjoyed especially telling of Sunday afternoons 90 years ago, when she and her two older sisters were invited into the kitchen of what is now the two-unit main house at No. 10 Arlington Place, often referred to as Casparis Castle. Swiss-Italian Silvio Casparis, owner of Marble Cliff Quarries, paid the girls fifty cents to sing Italian children's folk songs, despite the objections of his English-born wife.

Theresa was born on Glenn Avenue in 1911, not long after the family's arrival in Columbus from Tuscany. The blue-eyed, dark-haired daughter of Leopoldo and Diamante Magi, Theresa had two older sisters, Gina and Cora, and a younger brother, Freddie, who drowned in the quarries at age 9. The family moved to Fernwood Avenue in 1913, where Theresa grew up at what is now the site of the Marble Cliff Municipal Building. She remembers having no electricity, carrying water from a well on Cambridge, buying milk from the Sawyers on Cardigan, picking wild grapes along the railroad tracks, the Guy family's greenhouse business, and the thicket of wild plum trees behind what is now Anthony Thomas Candy Store. She attended first the school at Broadview and West 5th Avenue, and then Grandview School, which she left at age 15 to work with her mother, who catered Italian family events. In 1931 Theresa married Louis Frabott, the oldest son of the Frabott family. Now the matriarch of the Frabott clan, Theresa had two children, Carol and Harold. Her son and her husband both died 13 years ago. She is presently recovering from a hip fracture, suffered while trimming vines in her Grandview area back yard.

Reminder to Annual Members Renewal time is here!

Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society membership runs from October through the following September. The mailing label on this newsletter shows the expiration date of your membership. Your continued support is solicited and very much appreciated.

If you receive this newsletter as a courtesy because of your role in the community, may we invite you to full participation as a Society member?

