

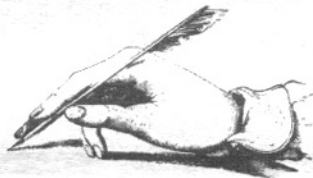


ViewPoints

SPRING, 2000

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members, Old and New,

Of course, I am referring to members who have been with us over our twenty-five years and those just coming on board! The GH/MCHS Board has much to bring to your attention:

- An interesting program on maintenance and preservation of old homes is coming up in October thanks to Grandview Heights Public Library in cooperation with Ohio Historic Preservation Office. Registration is required, so watch for the Library's Adult Programs brochure.
- Check out the new exhibit on "Field Days" in the "breezeway" in the Bank Block. Thanks to Tom Wagenbrenner's generous hosting, we have a continuing venue to showcase the history of our communities.
- Our next Tour of Homes will be in May 2001, focusing on homes in The Village of Marble Cliff in observance of the 100th anniversary of its incorporation in 1901. Chairperson Ruth Anne James will be keeping you informed of details.
- Chairperson Tracy Liberatore will be moving us toward community participation in the Ohio Bicentennial in 2003.
- We will need volunteers to help with all these future events. Please don't hesitate to call a Board Member with questions or suggestions!

Keep reading, folks! There is lots to cover in this newsletter. The August newsletter will bring you details of our annual meeting on Sunday afternoon, September 10. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Win Keller

A MAN, A PLACE, A TIME: Paul J. Falco in Marble Cliff: 1960-1996

(Based, in part, on an interview with Paul J. Falco by "Skip" Karlovec on 5 Feb. 1995)

Marble Cliff will celebrate the centennial of its incorporation in 2001. In the near-century of its official history, no one has served the community longer or with more generous dedication than the late Paul J. Falco, whose leadership spanned forty-two years: 6 years as an appointed council member, and 36 years as elected mayor. His mark on the community is significant and will endure.

In a 1995 interview, Falco shared memories of his formative years and first career, his experiences in World War II, the development of Marble Cliff since the 1950s, and the formation of an exceptional tax base for the village.

Born of immigrant parents in Chillicothe in 1915,



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OHIO'S BICENTENNIAL NEWS

BANK BLOCK AWARDED OHIO HISTORICAL MARKER

The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society is proud to announce that the Bank Block on Grandview Avenue has been awarded an Ohio Historical Marker. GHMCHS board member Tracy Liberatore handled the application for this award with the cooperation of the Wagenbrenner Company, owners of the Bank Block. These markers, a small

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Howell-Byrne-Uhl Followup

THE DINING ROOM OF ADRIENNE AND ALFRED "FRED" HOWELL, 1100 BROADVIEW AVENUE, CIRCA 1910



In a recent letter accompanying her donation of historic photos, Judith Uhl, now of Sardis, Mississippi, writes, "In the dining room was a cabineted victrola (phonograph) which my Uncle Fred would wind up, and it was there he taught me to waltz around the room to the tune of "Beautiful Ohio". (See Newsletter, Winter 2000)

A Man, A Place, A Time (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Paul J. Falco came to Columbus after high school graduation in the midst of the Great Depression. He attended The Ohio State University, but left when his decision to become a funeral director took him to embalming school in Cleveland, where he graduated in 1938.

After passing "state boards" and receiving his embalmer's and funeral director's licenses, Falco went to work for the Edward E. Fisher Mortuary at 213 East Broad Street. He married Betty Saylor in 1940.

Motivated by Pearl Harbor and the United States' entry into World War II on December 8, 1941, Falco enlisted in the United States Army at Fort Hayes in Columbus in March, 1942. Because of his qualifications as an embalmer, he was taken into the Quartermaster Corps. He was sent to Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in November 1942, and eventually reached the rank of major.

He spent time in England, went into Normandy after D-Day, and became adjutant for the gasoline supply battalion for the U. S. Third Army in Germany. "An embalmer wound up in a gasoline supply battalion. I didn't know anything about gasoline, but I sure learned quickly!"

Paul Falco was discharged in November 1946 and returned to his home in Columbus. "My wife had saved quite a bit of money while I was gone, and three years after I got back, in 1950, we decided we would build a house, and that's when we built 1335 Arlington Avenue."

Falco's long and distinguished career in real estate began as a "career change" after World War II. He was

appointed to Marble Cliff Council in 1954, and became mayor in 1960 when then mayor Jacob Shawan moved to Upper Arlington. In the interview, Falco recalls details of what he called "our own urban renewal."

In the 1926 will of Mary Jane Price Griswold, Marble Cliff received the acreage from the railroad to the river and from Fifth Avenue south to below Cardigan Avenue, with its use restricted to development of a community park. Mrs. Griswold, along with her husband, C.C. Griswold, and her father and brother, Timothy J. Price and John E. Price, had platted the original Arlington Place in 1889. (It became Marble Cliff in 1901.) In the following thirty years, no development occurred, mainly because there were no available funds. No doubt the Great Depression and World War II had a great deal to do with the situation.

Around 1957, Falco heard that Columbia Gas was looking for a site for a major office building. "Ed Schorr (city solicitor) and I knew several people at the gas company ... finally they decided they'd talk to us. We knew we couldn't sell them any of the ground ... it was in the estate and it had to be a park." So Falco and Schorr went to the judge of Franklin County Probate Court and he said, "Well, if you get all the heirs to agree to it, and probably give them something out of the sale, maybe they will agree to sign off."

"So this was quite a monstrous job. There were quite a few heirs." And so it came about that the heirs agreed, settled for half the sale price of the land to Columbia Gas. Falco says, "And then, of course, we would inherit Columbia Gas as a landowner

...we could see tax money coming out of that. You heard me say "urban renewal"...we were doing it on our own without the federal government getting in-volved." In early 1958, Marble Cliff Council approved the construction near Cardigan and Dublin of a projected 32-lane bowling alley which became

known as Scioto Lanes. Other projects followed. The 1959 Columbus City Directory lists, from West Fifth Avenue south, on the east side of Dublin Road: Preston Oil Company, Columbia Gas, State of Ohio Wildlife and Parks, DuPont de Nemours Wholesale, and Scioto Lanes Bowling (now

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Test Your Historical Knowledge!

1. **Where and when was Thompson Field, a Tri-Village neighborhood airfield, which offered instruction in aviation, as well as sight-seeing flights over the Tri-Village area for "the small price of ten dollars"?**

In 1921, R. S. Haines of Neil Avenue and Bud Hammill of Franklin Avenue, both trained Army flyers, purchased two Curtiss/Ford Army Training type planes from the U.S. Government and planned to lease one hundred acres from the Upper Arlington Company at the northwest corner of Star Road and King Avenue. For the story of this short-lived attempt to develop Columbus' first airfield, go to:

www.ghpl.org/ghmchistorical/tour-pages/airplanes.html

2. **Can you name the Grandview lady who was a concert-trained pianist, always traveled by city bus, and was 'famous' for never appearing anywhere except in completely mono-colored outfits, from shoes to scarf, hat and jewelry?**

Elizabeth Gminder Ries was the wife of Victor H. Ries, professor of floriculture at O.S.U., prolific author, Columbus Citizen columnist, founder of the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs, and gifted gardener. "Betty" and "Vic" lived at 1241 Lincoln Road from about 1930 until the late 1970s.

3. **How many of these former Tri-Village area "gathering places" can you locate?**

- Nicholas and Pasquale Cenci in 1932 built the building on the southeast corner of West Fifth and Glenn Avenues as **Cenci Brothers Market and Restaurant**. The two brothers and their families lived together at 1512 Glenn Avenue. The business closed in the 1950s.
- **Stew Harrison's** was founded in the early 1930s at the northeast corner of West Fifth and Grandview Avenues, and survived into the 1980s.
- **The Flame** was a club operated circa 1956-1967 at 1435 Grandview Avenue by local artist Dean Close, who also owned and operated the Grandview Cafe.
- **Joanne's Chili Bordello** was the last transformation of what had been Presutti's Villa, founded by Sullivan "Papa" Presutti at 1692 West Fifth Avenue about 1930 as TAT Restaurant.
- **Freckler's Lookout House** opened at the northeast corner of Dublin Road and Grandview Avenue in 1947. Within a few years it became the Explorer Restaurant, and is now Jasmine.

HIGHPOINTS OF PAUL FALCO'S LIFE....

- b. 29 January 1915 Chillicothe, Ohio
- d. 8 July 1996 Marble Cliff, Ohio
- m. 1) Betty Saylor 1940
2) Bobbie Hall

Education

- Chillicothe High School 1931, attended OSU
- Graduated mortuary school, Cleveland, 1938 employed: Edward E. Fisher Mortuary, East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 1938-1942

Military service

- Enlisted March 1942, U. S. Army Quartermaster
- served in U. S., England, France, Germany
- achieved rank of major, discharged late 1946

Career

- Distinguished career in Franklin County real estate - late 1940s-1996.
- Public service
- Marble Cliff Council 1954-1960
- Marble Cliff Mayor 1960-1996

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY...

Tour of Homes 2001

No Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society program can compare to the Tour of Homes, scheduled every three years on Mother's Day! Plans are already underway for the 2001 Tour, which will focus on homes in Marble Cliff, in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Marble Cliff.

Since the 1970s, Marble Cliff and Grandview Heights residents have graciously opened their homes to share the past and the present. The Society researches the history of each home and its builders. Points of interest about the architecture and early residents of each home are shared in print and in story.

Through the years, the Home Tour has captured not only the interest of new families moving into this "grand view", but also has offered new information to those born and raised in the community.

A search for locations for Tour of Homes 2001 is currently underway. A staff of docents will be needed for each site. Chairperson Ruthanne James welcomes your suggestions and offers of help at 486-6456.

VILLAGE OF MARBLE CLIFF SUPPORTS GHMCHS

The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society's operating budget funds have been increased by a thousand dollar (\$1000) donation from The Village of Marble Cliff. The village council approved the generous donation at their regularly scheduled meeting in March.

Bill Koch, GHMCHS board member, who serves as liaison to Marble Cliff council, made a brief presentation to council which included a summary of the historical society's objectives, activities and financial requirements. MC council members expressed strong support for GHMCHS in its ongoing efforts to research, document and support the history of the Grandview and Marble Cliff area.

GHMCHS gratefully acknowledges this financial gift. It will allow the society to continue and expand its efforts to add to the archives of our communities, and to increase the accessibility of information through publication and website.

The Village of Marble Cliff will celebrate its one hundredth birthday in the year 2001. GHMCHS will be assisting the village in the planning and programming of the celebration. Bill Koch, who has lived in MC for thirty-five years and served nineteen years as a member of the MC Council, will be the Society's contact person for this historical event.

Bicentennial News (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

part of the Ohio Bicentennial Celebration, are awarded to those sites judged to have played a major role of importance in Ohio history. Each marker is hand crafted and contains text describing the significance of the site. Installation will be several months in the future, and will be announced.

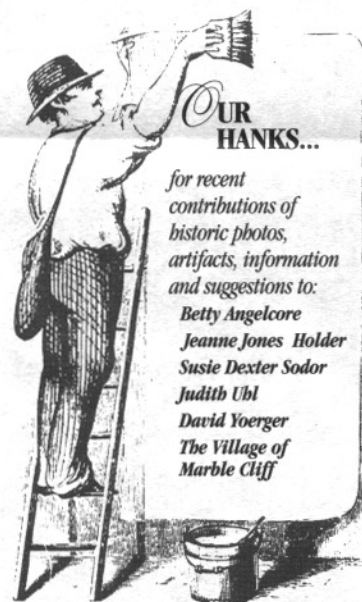
GET INVOLVED WITH THE BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE!

Grandview Heights has already begun to prepare for our local Bicentennial Celebration of Ohio Statehood in 2003. Plans will include children and adults. The event is statewide and many exciting projects have already begun. Many communities are planning projects such as Bicentennial quilts and planting Johnny Appleseed trees. For more information, visit the official website at www.ohio200.org. For more local information, or to join the Grandview Bicentennial Committee, contact Tracy Liberatore, Chair, at 488-0425 or email tpennl@aol.com.

BICENTENNIAL MEETING!

Public Meeting. Tuesday, 30 May 2000. Library Meeting Room. 7:00p.m.

Carmelita Boyer, Central Ohio coordinator, and assistant to the executive director of the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, will be visiting Grandview on Tuesday, May 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the Grandview Heights Public Library meeting room. She will showcase the Commission's recently released film, "A Time to Celebrate", which will give the community an opportunity to learn more about our state's Bicentennial. Carmelita will answer questions and discuss Bicentennial plans with those in attendance. This is a wonderful opportunity to become involved in helping Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society with our own celebration! You are invited to attend!



Note Our Website Address Change
www.ghpl.org/ghmchistorical/main.html
 If you are not on-line at home, the reference librarians at Grandview Heights Public Library will show you how to access us at the library.

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 _____

Please check the appropriate membership box:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP
YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1-SEPT. 30)	ONE-TIME PAYMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$500.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000.00

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Contact Editor Patrick Mooney
 (279-6665) for any interesting article ideas
 or to discuss photo contributions.

SCHOOL NOTE

In March, board member Patrick Mooney told stories of early Grandview residents to each of the three second grade classes at Robert Louis Stevenson School, using photos and artifacts from the society archives. Each of the classes had spent some time in guided exploration of the Society's website in anticipation of his visit.

A Man, A Place, A Time (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Custom Coach). A *Columbus Dispatch* article of 1989 stated that the village of fewer than 700 residents had changed little in 88 years, but went on to say that in Falco's nearly thirty years as mayor, the tax base grew from \$4 million to \$21 million, and the annual budget from \$40,000 to nearly \$500,000. In 1975, a planning commission was abolished because of few requests, and, in 1983, Marble Cliff seceded from Franklin Township, thus reducing residents' real estate taxes. The village's largest employer is Columbia Gas, whose employees pay a 1 percent income tax to Marble Cliff. In a 1991 interview, Falco said his proudest achievement had been in working with council members to boost the tax base.

During Paul Falco's years of leadership, Marble Cliff also moved through a succession of "deals", first with Franklin township and eventually with Grandview Heights, to provide fire protection and other services. For example, the building which is now The Media Group was built as a Franklin Township firehouse with a meeting room for Marble Cliff Council, then purchased by Marble Cliff, and later became Gus' Restaurant. For some years MC Council met at 2015 West Fifth Avenue, and in the 1980s the village purchased several properties on Fernwood Avenue and built its own city hall. Part of the Fernwood property has appropriately been dedicated as a park in Falco's honor. During his years as mayor, Falco routinely turned his mayor's salary back to the community, and in 1987, inaugurated a community memorial fund with a personal gift of \$10,000.

Falco's will established a \$200,000 endowment fund to provide undergraduate academic scholarships to Marble Cliff residents. The Scholarship Committee, which administers the funds and awards scholarships in varying amounts, consists of Marble Cliff Mayor and Council members, and Falco's widow, Bobbie Hall.

Sometime during his last decade as mayor of Marble Cliff, Paul J. Falco said, "Nobody wants to annex us. If they did, they couldn't, because we're too financially strong to go down the tubes, so to speak." Perhaps the exceptional financial stability of this 175-acre village will be his most enduring legacy.

The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society

