



# ViewPoints

SUMMER, 1999

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

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members:

I hope you are enjoying the summer wherever you are! Our summer here in Grandview and Marble Cliff has been a very hot one: ideal for going to the beach or a mountain lake, but always to return to our active villages.

"Lazy Daze" is becoming our latest summer tradition, along with Grandview Pool parties, and Concerts on the Lawn at the library, as well as Marble Cliff's Music in the Park and Annual Family Picnic. We continue to make history!

With my computer ease growing all the time (I'm connected to FreeNet through the Library), I enjoy my e-mail, and, of course, going to our Website to see what is new, thanks to Wayne Carlson and others on the Board. I hope you have returned often to "click on" to the latest entry.

We are delighted to welcome new members we have acquired through the website and the newsletter: Carol Andres, Amy Baker, Katherine Koch, William F. Koch (life member), Robert and Katherine Neese, Edward T. Stapleford, and Charles and Alice Whipple.

We thank all members for their continued support! The membership year runs from September to September.

We welcome comments on the Website, sharing of memories, artifacts, ideas for articles, or pictures. Mail to us in care of the library or e-mail us at [ghmchs@hotmail.com](mailto:ghmchs@hotmail.com).

See you at the Annual Meeting, Sunday, September 19! Come wish Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society a happy 25th Anniversary!

Sincerely,  
Win Keller  
President, GHMCHS

## FIRST IN A SERIES OF THREE ARTICLES... History of the Schools in Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff *by Wayne Carlson*

As the 19th century came to a close, development was rapidly proceeding in the area of Columbus between the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers. This area, now known as Grandview Heights, Marble Cliff, and Upper Arlington included parts of three Franklin County townships. The area to the west, north of Fifth Avenue, is Perry Township; to the northeast, Clinton Township; and south of Fifth Avenue is the northernmost portion of Franklin Township. With this new development came the need to educate the children of the families that were moving into this area. Preceding this time, resident families had the responsibility of establishing the local school districts and building the schools.

In the early days of the region, there was a Perry Township school called Fairview, located on the northeast corner of Tremont and Lane Avenue. A Clinton Township school, nicknamed the "Polka Dot School" because of its equal racial mix, stood until about 1913 on Virginia Avenue south of Chambers Road, where it served families of the Sells Circus among others. Preceding this time, a one-room log building served the area in Franklin Township on the corner of Grandview Avenue and Dublin Road. It was constructed around 1850

and was replaced by a brick building in 1872, according to former Marble Cliff resident and school board member P. S. Skeeles, speaking at the dedication of what is now known as Edison Elementary in 1912. He indicated in the same address that the school was called the Walcutt School, named for a prominent area family.

In 1895, a new building was constructed on a site at the corner of Fairview and First Avenues. The school was called the Harding School and originally had two rooms on the south side. It was expanded to four rooms sandwiching the tall central tower in 1898.



HARDING SCHOOL

The tower contained a large brass bell, which was melted and used in the war effort after the building was razed in 1930. (The entire building was sold as scrap for \$300.)

In 1901, Marble Cliff legally incorporated as a village. After Grandview split away, the two communities maintained their own school dis-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Don't Miss the  
ANNUAL MEETING!  
Sunday, Sept. 19 • 2-4 p.m.  
Grandview Heights Public Library



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY BEGINNINGS

The first meeting of a "Proposed Grandview Heights-Marble Cliff Historical Society" on the 26th of March, 1974 in the Grandview Heights Public Library, was attended by 39 members of the community and chaired by Mrs. Donald (Win) Keller who introduced the other steering committee members: Mrs. Henry (Virginia) Abbot, Mrs. Robert (Ann) Larrick, and Joseph P. Wyman. A vote of confidence was asked for, and given. Dirk Voelker, lawyer for the group stated his plan to proceed with articles of incorporation. Suggestions offered by those in attendance. Jack Snyder, chairman of the library board, offered a place in the library for meetings and storage of memorabilia.

A constitution a by-laws were approved, a steering committee established formally, membership dues determined, and first donations accepted at a meeting on 29 May 1974.

The first annual meeting of the infant Grandview Heights / Marble Cliff historical Society was held at the library, on September 18th, 1974. Thirty-two residents who had lived in the community continuously since before 1925 were honored with flowers. The first board of trustees was elected, consisting of Win Keller, Ann Larrick, Virginia Abbot, Dirk Voelker and Joseph Wyman.

Credit for the concept of a local historical society goes to a conversation between Ann Larrick and Win Keller in the kitchen sometime in 1973. Their inspiration came from the research into Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff history by Mrs. Amelia Muhlbach and Miss Becky Laycock, teachers at Edison elementary School, who were involving their students in programs designed to develop knowledge and appreciation of their heritage of local history. Mrs. Muhlbach and Miss Laycock spoke at the first annual meeting.

The timing of the society's beginning was fortuitous. Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society rode the wave of interest in the national bicentennial of 1976. The Society's first major project was the publication of *Sheltering a Heritage*, a history of local homes built before about 1912, which was reprinted recently.

The 1999 annual meeting of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society, at the Grandview Heights Public Library from 2 to 4 pm on Sunday, September 19, will be a celebration of the accomplishments of 25 years of the Society, and will include historical displays, a presentation and refreshments. The Society hopes to have in attendance as many as possible of those who appear on the roster of the formational meeting in March 1974, as well as many former trustees and officers.

districts until Marble Cliff dissolved their district in 1915. After a year under the Franklin Rural School District, the Marble Cliff schools were transferred by the Franklin County Board of Education to the Grandview Heights School District, where they have remained since.

In 1911, the need for additional facilities prompted the construction of the Grandview Elementary School (now Edison Elementary) for \$50,000. When it was completed, the Harding School became the High School, and the first class of seniors in

students, as well as for adult residents. Some parents chose to send their children to schools in the Columbus system, due to inadequate facilities and some necessary limitations to the breadth of the curriculum. In 1918 the district's first two principals, Mr. P.A. McCarty at the high school and Mrs. Ethel Layland at the elementary level were appointed.

The next decade saw some of the most dramatic growth in Grandview history. The following is a quote from the October, 1920 issue of the *Norwester*,



THOMAS ALVA EDISON ELEMENTARY

the district (five girls and two boys) graduated in 1916. The elementary school had a 350 seat auditorium, which was used as a community movie theatre, showing "Paramount Moving Pictures" reels.

By 1917, even these facilities were inadequate. Enrollment in the district by this time had grown to 529 students. High school enrollment alone had increased 446% in the five-year period from 1913, when there were 17 high school students. For the 1917/18 school year, grades one through three were located in the four room Fifth Avenue School, grades four through eight in the elementary on Fairview, and the high school classes were in the Harding School. In addition to these students, Miss Mary Boyer privately schooled thirteen children from the district. Miss Boyer would later become one of Arlington's first elementary school teachers. She also conducted after-school foreign language classes for Grandview

which was the local news publication of the time:

*"...we need a new building and more equipment. The school has an increase of 20% over last year's enrollment. We feel like a boy who has outgrown the capacity of his knee breeches. You know there's a limit to crowding. Before long the question arises what will we do next."*

Some of the overcrowdedness was reduced when the Village of Upper Arlington was allowed by the Franklin County Board of Education to establish a separate school district, which they did in August, 1918. They built a temporary four-room building with funds provided by King and Ben Thompson at the corner of Arlington Avenue and Tremont Road, using the remains of one of the barracks that were part of Camp Willis. It contained grades one through three in one room, four through



six in another, and seven through nine in a third. The fourth room was a larger common space used for school activities. They opened this school in October, taking 56 children out of the crowded Grandview schools, and immediately planned a more permanent building, which opened as the Waltham Road School in September, 1919.

Although they had a separate school board, Upper Arlington shared the services of Superintendent C. A. Waltz, who was replaced in August by M. M. Williams. He served until 1923 when G. E. Roudebush replaced him. Grandview's longest serving Superintendent, W. C. Rohleder, was appointed in 1927 and he served until he retired in 1957. The Upper Arlington high school students in grades ten through twelve completed their studies in Grandview, and Arlington added a class each year after 1918 as their ninth graders advanced. Until the high school in Grandview was completed in 1923, the Grandview basketball team played on the court at the new Arlington school.

In 1918, President Wilson proposed that every school age child in America should have a garden of his or her own to be responsible for. The Grandview and Marble Cliff communities responded by developing a community children garden plot at the corner of Arlington and First Avenues. Each child in the district old enough to care for it was allocated a small section for a personal garden. That same year, the children also responded to a call from Washington to sell War Bonds, and they exceeded everyone's expectations.

TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR  
NEXT ISSUE



## Celebrating a Queen...Nearly 70 Years Later!

**1930**  
*In the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society car on Saturday, May 28 in Grandview's 1999 Memorial Day Parade is Bonnie Jean Martin McCullough, Grandview High School's first homecoming queen of 1930. The driver is Historical Society Board Member Tracy Liberatore, and the car is a 1936 Mercedes Gazelle (repro).*



**1999**


**A BIG THANK YOU!**  
*Duncan and Josephine Barclay  
 Jeri Diehl Cusack • Alyn Eickholt • Esther Koch Evans  
 Galen Gonser • Robert "Gus" Hoehl  
 for recent gifts of artifacts, documents or photographs.*

## **And the Ladies of the Club... GRANDVIEW CIVIC WELFARE CLUB**

On September 4, 1920, eleven women met at the home of Mrs. George Moore, 1530 Inglis Avenue, in the rapidly developing Northwest Boulevard Addition, to form a club. The purpose of the club was to improve conditions in the community, promote good fellowship among members, and engage in general welfare work. Dues were set at 25 cents a month, and meetings were held twice monthly: a business meeting and a visiting/sewing meeting. Refreshments were limited to "tea and wafers". At the third meeting the name "Civic Welfare Club" was chosen. In the first year members made 150 articles of baby clothing for the Elizabeth Home for Girls, sponsored a "Clean-Up Week", sold Chatauqua tickets, contributed to the Kiwanis Club, planted shrubbery around the Fairview School building (now Edison), had mailboxes installed at First and Grandview and Willard and First, paid one month's salary for a school doctor and nurse, and working with Family Service, gave financial assistance to a needy family with 5 children. In the fall of 1921, it was decided to hold only one meeting each month. In 1922, the name was changed to GRANDVIEW CIVIC WELFARE CLUB, and the group affiliated with the Columbus Federation of Women's Clubs. This affiliation was dropped in 1960. In 1923 the "imaginary line" (Grandview Avenue) was eliminated. The club currently has a closed membership of 75, and several associate members.

In its 79 years, "Grandview Civic" has contributed extensively to all phases of community life. The list is endless, including service to the blind, cancer victims, and many other causes. During World War II, the club organized four Red Cross Nursing classes, started Civil Defense registration in Grandview, sponsored a canteen at the Greyhound Bus Depot and Union Station, sponsored nutrition classes and food canning classes at the high school, invited boys for dinner from Fort Hayes, and sent Christmas gifts to sons and daughters in the service. Contributions locally from the 1950s include Grandview Avenue Halloween Festival, Bobcat Boosters' Ox Roast, Wyman Woods Shelter House, Little League, Grandview Memorial Park, and, of course, the schools. In 1995, members of the club began to set aside funds to provide scholarships to students graduating from Grandview Heights High School. The first scholarships were awarded in May of 1996 to students whose high school activities and achievement were consistent with the goals of the club. In 1999 Grandview Civic Welfare Club awarded two scholarships of \$500 each to graduating seniors of Grandview Heights High School.

## MAYOR RYDER

*John "Jack" Ryder, mayor of Grandview Heights from 1918 to 1940, didn't 'always' ride a horse in the Field Day parade, but he did it more than once, and his 250-pound figure was always a standout, whether garbed as a British jockey, a Zulu Warrior, or in a tutu! Chairman of the first Field Day in 1916, Scout Master from 1919, this Grandview "pioneer" and involved citizen and his family lived at 1130 Westwood Avenue. For more, see: <<http://ghpi.lib.oh.us/ghmchistorical/tour-pages/ryder.html>>*

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

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

## 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

## Answers to Questions from Our Last (Spring Issue) "Test Your Historical Knowledge"

- 1. Where was Sinclair's Woods?** *The Richard Sinclair 1894 farmhouse was the present 1073 Grandview Avenue. Mr. Sinclair worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad, and later became a Franklin County Commissioner. He was U. S. Census taker for this neighborhood in 1910. The present Wyman Woods was commonly called Sinclair's Woods, and the pasture where the Shelter House stands was used by several neighborhood families for their cows and horses. The Sinclair family sold the property after Mr. Sinclair's death in 1942. For a 1910 view of the woods and pasture, go to <http://www.ghpl.lib.oh.us/ghmchistorical/tourpages/wyman-woods.html>*
- 2. Which mayor of Grandview Heights always rode a white horse in an annual Tri-Village area parade?** *For answer, see page 3.*
- 3. Where was the "Arlington" from which Upper Arlington got its name?** *The north-west portion of present Marble Cliff was platted in 1889 as "Arlington Place", and the area was commonly referred to as "Arlington" long before Upper Arlington was begun as "The Country Club District" in 1915.*
- 4. What central Ohio sports competition was for many years an annual event on Grandview Avenue Hill?** *The Columbus race of the All-American Soap Box Derby, sponsored nationally by Chevrolet from 1934, was held every summer for years on Grandview Avenue hill. From the 1939 publicity: "in the inexpensive home-built soap-box cars, you will discover that today's boyhood possesses ingenuity, and initiative and resourcefulness... Cheer for the new 1939 champion, who will represent this city at Akron, Ohio on August 13, when champions from 100 cities will compete in the National and International Soap Box Derby finals." For more information, log on <http://www.ghpl.lib.oh.us/ghmchistorical/tour-pages/derby.html>*
- 5. When was the first "ox roast held", who sponsored it, and what annual event was it a part of?** *In the summer of 1922, as part of the annual Tri-Village Field Day, which was the "great event" of every summer from 1916 to 1924, the first "ox roast" was sponsored by the Field Day Committee, under the leadership of "Hup" Pearson of Glenn Avenue.*
- 6. What area business, founded in Grandview Heights in 1908, has the distinction of being the oldest local business still operating under its original name?** *Glass Plumbing Company is operated today by a member of the family's third generation, Kevin Glass, at 1745 West Fifth Avenue. (See at left).*
- 7. What Grandview man was the prototype for a character in the famous "Terry and the Pirates" comic strip by OSU grad and cartoonist Milt Caniff?** *Frank L. "Dude" Higgs of Lincoln Road spent only about two months of 1937-1945 on his native soil. The rest of the time he was in China teaching Chinese pilots to fly and flying himself as chief pilot for the Chinese National Air Corporation. He was the model for Dude Hennick, a comic strip character created by his college friend, Milt Caniff. His plane went down October 20, 1945 with no survivors. The comic strip for December 25, 1945 was a eulogy for Dude Hennick/Frank Higgs. For the full story, go to <http://ghpl.lib.oh.us/ghmchistorical/Higgs-story.html>*
- 8. What organization has the longest history of continuous community service in the Tri-Village area?** *The Grandview Civic Welfare Club has a distinguished history of continuous service beginning in 1920. (See p.3)*



ADVERTISING POSTCARD PASSED OUT BY GLASS PLUMBING IN THE EARLY 40s



## The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

### Visit Our New Website!

<http://www.ghpl.lib.oh.us/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.