



ViewPoints



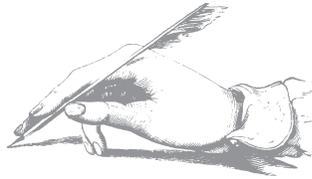
Summer, 2002

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members and Friends,

Summer is almost over and soon we will be into fall, the students will again fill the school halls. I hope you have enjoyed these sunny days, whether it be at a baseball game, on vacation, or simply relaxing with your family. Grandview looks as wonderful as ever, with all the flowers and gardening projects, and our Bank Block brimming with outside diners!

Welcome to our newest life members: Richard D. Anderson, Constance N. Brody, Ken Frick and Cynthia McKay. We thank them for their gracious support.

Your board has enjoyed a July hiatus from meetings, and returned in full force to our many projects in early August.

GHMC Historical Society was proud to showcase the "maiden voyage" of the Franklin County Bicentennial Association's float in the Grandview Memorial Day parade, and came away with a trophy for the "Mayor's Award/Best Overall Entry"!

Recently, the City of Grandview Heights donated several boxes of early city documents to the Society. We very much appreciate the continuing support of Grandview city government.

We wish to welcome our newest board member, Mary Burkey. See her Board Member Profile elsewhere in this issue.

We are looking forward to the GHMCHS annual meeting on Sunday, September 15, featuring an exciting program entitled "A Visit to Columbus circa 1910," performed by Dick and Margie Barrett. [See article] We hope to see all of you there!

As always, I welcome your suggestions and comments. Please feel free to call or email me anytime.

Sincerely,

Tracy Liberatore, President
tpennl@aol.com

GHMCHS Annual Meeting A VISIT TO COLUMBUS CIRCA 1910

The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society annual meeting on Sunday, September 15 at 2:00 p.m. in Grandview Heights Public Library meeting room will feature well-known Columbus history collector Richard Barrett and his wife, Margie.

"A Visit to Columbus circa 1910" is a script written and performed by the Barretts, and illustrated with historic postcard and photo views from Dick's extensive collection.

Their program will take us to and even inside Columbus landmarks of the "postcard era" (1905-1915) such as: Ohio Penitentiary, Union Station, downtown theaters, trolley cars, state institutions, amusement parks, and much more.

All interested parties are invited to attend. There will be a very short business meeting, light refreshments, and good community camaraderie.

Richard Barrett is a Columbus native, semi-retired after 32 years at Battelle and additional years as a district representative for Lutheran Brotherhood. Richard and Margie have been married for 40 years and have three grown children. They are active at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church.

About 30 years ago Dick picked up a few old Columbus postcards at a flea market and soon became hooked on Columbus history. Since then he has used his collection to illustrate talks,



1909 comic postcard from the collection of Richard Barrett. The view is High Street looking north



This issue sponsored by

Grandview Heights City Council

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HISTORY OF GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (GHHSAA) by Terry Smith '54

The current Grandview Alumni Association was incorporated in the State of Ohio on October 2, 1981. References to earlier associations date back to the 1920's and 1930's, but there is no record of what happened to those groups.

An original association activity which is still in existence is sponsorship of Alumni Night, which is held in conjunction with a fall high school football game. Frequently class reunions are scheduled for the same weekend. Another ongoing activity is the sponsorship of an Alumni float in the Grandview Memorial Day Parade. Alumni are encouraged to ride on the float or walk alongside it to show their community support. Another early activity was Alumni Night in the high school gymnasium. Basketball games of Grandview Alumni vs. Grandview City and Recreation Department Employees, and vs. Grandview Faculty and Coaches were held. This event of the 1980's has since been discontinued.

A major forum for spreading the word on the association is a Newsletter which is published and mailed three times a year to 4,000 households around the world. The newsletter is the major method of fund raising, which brings in about \$20,000 annually in dues and donations from alumni and friends. Several substantial bequests have been received from estates of deceased alumni. To ensure the safety of the principal, the bulk of funds are maintained in two accounts at The Columbus Foundation. The triannual newsletters carry articles of interest about the community and school system. The most popular feature is "Cat Mews", which are brief notes from various alumni updating where they live, what they are doing, and sending messages of Grandview memories. There are

also regular notices of all class reunions scheduled for the near future. [GHMC Historical Society would be interested in obtaining a collection of past alumni newsletters. If you can make a contribution, please contact us.]

Fund raising activities finance programs in support of the school district. In 2001 contributions to various school programs and activities totaled \$15,000, including scholarship awards of \$5,000. Since the inauguration of the Alumni Scholarship program in 1991 \$47,000 in scholarships has been awarded to 23 graduates. The Spring 2002 awards covered 4 scholarships totaling \$7,000.

In 1990 the Grandview Class of 1940 held a 50th Reunion, the success of which led to the organization of a monthly luncheon open to all alumni. These luncheons were held at the Jai Lai Restaurant until the Jai Lai ceased operations in April 1995. In 1996 the Alumni Association assumed organizational responsibility for the luncheons. Alumni met at the Aspen Inn on the fourth Friday of each month, until June 2002, when reorganization of the restaurant forced a change of venue. The July 2002 luncheon was held at the University Plaza Hotel on Olentangy River Road, although efforts continue to find a permanent location. Attendance at the luncheons ranges from 30 to 90 diners. The largest luncheon attendance of record was in the fall of 2001, when 95 persons, with some coming from 4 other states, attended the event hosted by GHHS graduates Tom and Tamea Sutphen at their automobile museum in Hilliard.

Several years ago the association produced a video: "Remember Grandview: The First 50 Years", which consists primarily of a narrative with photos of the staff of the high school based on the school annual, The Highlander. Additional footage includes other early Grandview pictures. 250 copies of this video have been distributed to those making a donation of \$15.

Future plans include the possibility of developing an Alumni page on the internet in conjunction with the Grandview Schools website which is www.grandviewschools.org For further information, or to contact GHHSAA write to P.O. Box 12116, Columbus, OH 43212.



1922 photos from the William Hague Family Album

Splash!

Grandview Pool turned 70 in June of this year. Concrete was poured in April 1932 for a limited membership swimming pool to serve the Tri-Village community. Construction was directed by officers of the Grandview Swimming Pool Company of 1311 Grandview Avenue: C. A. Niple, J. S. Radebaugh and Henry Taylor. It was planned to be "the largest swimming place in the vicinity of Columbus". Sold to Robert Wasmus in 1945, Grandview Pool continued as a privately operated pool until purchase from Wasmus by the city in 1978.

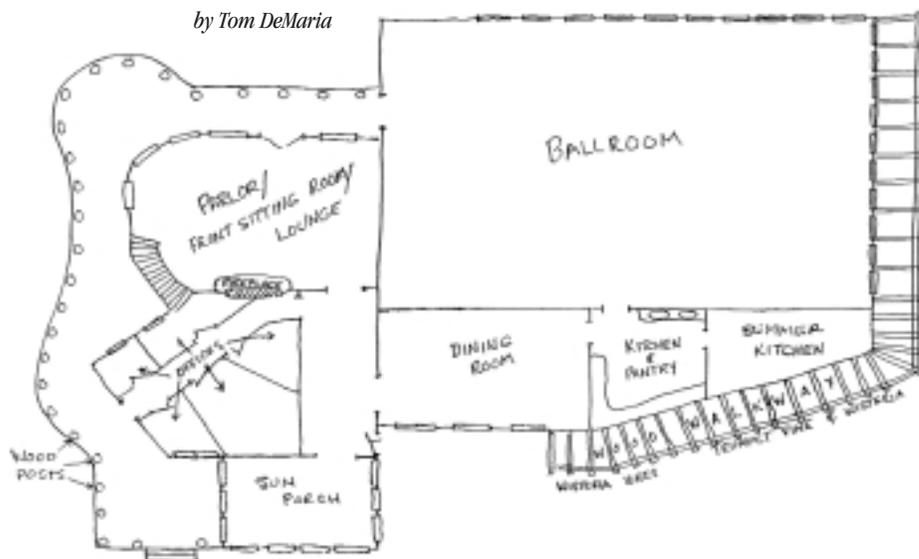
Grandview Swimming Pool was, however, not the first Grandview community swimming venue. An article headed, "Oh? Skin-ney!" in the *Community News* of Friday, June 16, 1922 reads: "Weigh in, wade in, jump, roll or fall in-any way to get in! Crazy? Sure-I'm loco-push me, Pop, I got my bathing suit on and the swimmin' committee just phoned me the pool was all set. And it's true! The bathhouse built, buttons made, Kiser on the bank to keep the kiddies out of danger and William A. Pope, Joe Devanney and Dick Sinclair showing their wisdom teeth, so wide is their grin. ...Oh, boy, June 20, 2 p.m. Tuesday, and a nice dip in the ocean just north of Dublin Road..."

Later issues of the local paper reported an average of forty-five bathers daily, and the first swimming match was detailed in the *Community News* of August 25, 1922. The "old swimmin' hole fixed up like new" was on the north side of the gravel pit lake, south of the railroad tracks, and behind the present commercial buildings at the northeast corner of Grandview Avenue and Dublin Road.



NEW DISCOVERIES: UPDATES

by Tom DeMaria



FLOOR PLAN- 1st FLOOR ALADDIN CLUB HOUSE - 1939 - 1942 (DEMOLISHED)

First floor plan of the Aladdin Country Club circa 1939-1940 as drawn from memory in 1997 by "Woody" Hoge.

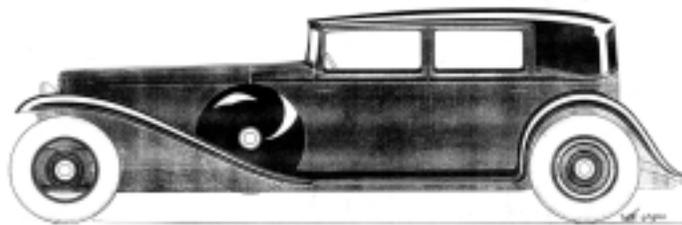
As you might expect, the information shared in this column tends to raise more questions than answers and often generates significant input from our readers. In this edition I'll be sharing some updates on Fairview Ave. and the Aladdin Country Club.

Society member, Joann "Woody" Hoge, of New Knoxville, Ohio wrote that she was 4 years old in 1939 when her grandfather, W. G. Barnhart, bought the Aladdin Country Club House and property for development and invited her family to live there for what she describes as "3 glorious years". Her sketch of the ground floor plan of the Club House, drawn from memory in 1997, is shown above. She recalls, "The ballroom became a skating rink (for her) and that 'bums' from the nearby trains would camp in there and light fires... and I would write them little notes and tell them to be careful... The wisteria and the trumpet vines on the arbor that hid the big summer kitchen were so beautiful." [For more details and interior photos of the Club House, see our website www.ghmchs.org] Additionally, we learned that Woody's grandfather built the Northwest Masonic Temple on the corner of First and Grandview Avenues. He also built a significant number of homes on Arlington Avenue and Cambridge Boulevard. She has graciously provided GHMCHS with circa 1940-1941 newspaper articles and pictures describing homes built by the W. G. Barnhart Company in the Aladdin Country Club Subdivision. The home at 1271 Cambridge Boulevard sold in April 1940 for \$14,000 (only \$170,000 in today's dollars) and was considered an "executive class" home. The home built by Woody's grandfather at 1471 Cambridge is currently listed for sale at \$475,000! Uncertainty remains as to the final fate of the Aladdin Club House. A 1950 Tri-Village News article said that it burnt. Other indications are that it was razed in 1942. If any of our readers have any information as to the final fate of the Club House, please contact us.



Alan Leamy circa 1932-1934 from the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum collection, Auburn, Indiana.

A second update concerns the Leamy family who resided in the Victorian home that originally occupied the site that is now a parking lot on the southwest corner of First and Fairview Avenues. The New Discoveries column in Fall 2001 mentioned Alan Leamy, Sr. as being notable and perhaps somewhat eccentric. We have recently learned that the achievements of his son, Alan Leamy, Jr., far eclipsed his father's accomplishments. Alan Leamy, Jr. survived a bout with polio shortly after the family's move to Columbus in 1905. Permanently handicapped, he attended Grandview Schools until his junior year. He was a self-taught and extremely talented artist with a forte for automobile design. Hired away from another designer by the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Automobile Company of Auburn, Indiana, Alan Leamy became widely acclaimed for the design of the Duesenberg and other cars of the late 1920s. He was the chief designer for America's first front-wheel drive production car, the Cord L-29. He left his position at Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg, and at age 32 became the chief designer for the Fisher Body Works of General Motors. Tragically, he was on the job for only 8 days in the summer of 1934 before dying of septicemia after a medical injection. Leamy's widely admired designs have maintained to this day his international reputation in the history of automobile design. He cut a dashing figure as a hunting enthusiast, attested by this photo of him in a three-piece suit and fedora, wearing a leg brace, and resting his pistol on his knee in a rowboat. Look for more of Alan Leamy's portfolio on our website soon.



One of Alan Leamy's Duesenberg designs dated March 28, 1928. From "The Career and Creations of Alan H. Leamy" by Dan Burger, in *Automobile Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 2, pp. 132-143, 1982.

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**

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

A GENTLE REMINDER

September is the annual membership renewal time.

There is a membership form on this page.

New memberships are always welcome.

We anticipate dues to increase in 2003.

A VISIT TO COLUMBUS CIRCA 1910 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and has supplied materials for newspaper columns, books, magazines and for a series of programs on Columbus History for Educable TV. Richard Barrett is currently a trustee of The Franklin County Bicentennial Association, helped to organize the Franklin County Exhibit at this year's Ohio State Fair, and this summer is participating in an exhibit at the Groveport Town Hall Art Gallery.



Undated postcard from the collection of Patrick Mooney

Please join Society members, friends, guests and the Barretts on September 15, and visit an earlier Columbus in a unique way.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

New GHMCHS Board member Mary Burkey hopes to discover new and interesting information about this wonderful community while helping to preserve and communicate historical information to all interested parties. Mary first learned about the Historical Society as a librarian employed at the Grandview Heights Public Library, and recognized the lasting value of GHMCHS publications. Mary has been a teacher at Stevenson School for the past ten years, and often uses GHMCHS resources and website in her role as school librarian. Mary and her husband, Steve Burkey, have lived in Grandview Heights for eighteen years. They have two sons: Michael, 23, now living in Memphis, Tennessee; and Paul, 19, a student at Columbia University in New York City. Mary enjoys time relaxing on her West First Avenue front porch and walking the streets of Grandview and Marble Cliff, with her dog, Daisy, admiring the beautiful historic homes.

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The Grandview
Heights/Marble Cliff
Historical Society

