



ViewPoints



Spring 2019

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



Dear Members,

Spring Salutations! I am truly thankful that the cold weather is behind us and look forward to a nice warm and wonderful spring and summer! Yard cleanup is always a task, but feels great when it's done! It's also great to see everyone out and about, walking their children and dogs. So nice after being cooped up.

We are working on regular committee duties, and the archives committee is still busy archiving. Please check the Breezeway for the updated display. Thanks Ruthanne and Jane for continuing to work on this project. We are also working on adding new activities for our members, other than the annual meeting. We hope to iron out details and have something for you all to attend soon.

Thank you Tom DeMaria and Wayne Carlson for your tireless efforts in keeping the Facebook and Moment in Time updated and interesting. I do think that ThisWeek Tri-Village News is publishing more of Wayne's submissions than before. I hope this trend continues. If you do not receive a paper copy of it, the submissions will always be available online at our website www.ghmchs.org. A special thank you to Tom for also keeping our High School display case filled with memorabilia.

The Society is hopeful with regard to development of 2015 W. 5th Avenue. Although I have not attended any public meetings, I understand that the current plan for development will retain the original Frank Packard designed manor house as the centerpiece of the project. This proposal seems to fit the community much better.

I am always available to any member with concerns or questions.

*Sincerely,
Tracy Liberatore, President*

3rd Grade Teacher Found

GH/MCHS archivists received a request in late 2018 from Michael Ranalli to help find his third grade teacher from 1973-1974. He remembered her name was Miss (Phoebe) Bell. She only taught in Grandview at Stevenson Elementary for one year and was getting married at the end of the school year. The Society did not have records of a 1973-1974 GHS school teacher by that name. Brian Kuyper (Society Trustee) realized that Phoebe was the sister of Rick Bell who had graduated with Brian and his wife Jill (Society Trustee/Archivist). The Bell family had lived at 1083 Wyandotte Road. The Kuypers sent an email to Gretchen Bell, Phoebe's sister, who provided Phoebe's contact information. Finally through trial and error of technology and the Society's help, the student and teacher found each other via email. They are communicating often and are catching up.



Phoebe Bell (left) with her 3rd grade class.

Keeping Tradition Alive in Grandview Heights: A 70 Year Celebration of the Cake Walk

By Meghan Watters

In July 1940, Grandview Heights School District Superintendent W.C. Rohleder announced that he had hired Paul Holcomb to be an instructor of instrumental music who would “devote much of his time to the development of a school band.” A couple of months later, 35 interested band parents held their first meeting to create an organization “designed to booster the formation of a band in the high school” and raise funds to purchase the large instruments necessary for a marching band.

From the beginning, the Band Boosters was a co-ed group with leadership roles held by both men and women. Often husbands and wives worked together to support the band, such as in the case of Mr. and Mrs. George McDaniel, who jointly chaired three annual Cake Walks in the 1950s. In September 1948, the Band Boosters officially became the Grandview Band Parents Association (“GBPA”) and held its first meeting.

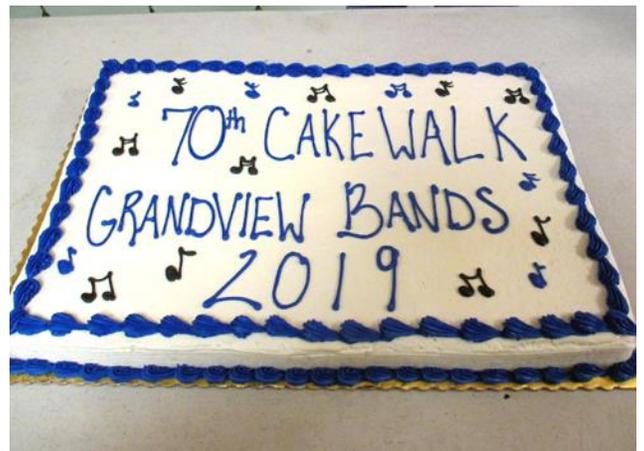
In October 1940, the GBPA held their first fundraiser on behalf of the proposed band. It was a tag sale. “Boost the Band” tags were sold at the GHS football game against Columbus Academy. A “band” of 27 male students played at the school assembly and football game that day. Individuals who bought the \$1 tags wore them looped with string around a shirt or jacket button. The GBPA’s tag sale has been held every year since. The tag sale is still one of the three major fundraisers of the GBPA today in the form of the decal sale (the name changed from tag sale to decal sale in 2005). Other early fundraisers for the band included an annual spring Card Party and a Band Festival, complete with a circus, held in July.

The Beginning – “Did You Ever See A Cake Walk?”

On November 11, 1948, the front page of the *TriVillage News* contained a small article entitled “Did You Ever See A Cake Walk?”. The article told TriVillage residents – citizens of Grandview

Heights, Marble Cliff, and Upper Arlington because it was the local paper for all three communities at that time – that they “were invited to share in the fun at the Cake Walk in the Grandview High School Auditorium, November 22, 1948, at 8:00 p.m.” It was suggested that the “*entire family will enjoy the fun and the delicious homemade cakes you may win.*” Residents were told that music and entertainment would be provided by the GHHS band under the direction of J. Wendell Byrnes, and the Cake Walk was sponsored by the GBPA, under the chairmanship of Mr. James Wallace, assisted by Mrs. Wallace.

Tickets for each walk around the ring at the first Cake Walk were 10 cents each; admission was free. The announcement noted that “[t]he public is invited” showing an intent from the very beginning that the Cake Walk would be an event for the entire community, and not limited to the high school or families with children in Grandview schools.



A Sweet Success

The first GBPA Cake Walk proved to be so successful that in 1952 the Cake Walk was held instead of the Card Party as the main spring fundraiser for the band. The 1952 Cake Walk was held in the HS gymnasium/auditorium on Friday, March 21, and it was the concert band, not the marching band, that performed. In 1958, the Cake Walk was moved to the new gymnasium. From 1952 to 1979, Cake Walks were held in the HS gymnasium on a Friday in March. In 1980, the date was moved to the first Friday in April.

The 1952 Cake Walk was also a combined cake walk and square dance. The band would

Cake Walk (cont'd)

play for a “walk” around the cake ring and then a square dance reel would be played for dancing. In 1953, admission to the Cake Walk was charged for the first time – 25 cents. The 1953 Cake Walk was a combination of a cake walk, formal dance and a 30 minute concert by the high school concert band. The 25-cent admission price remained the same for the next 46 years, until the 50th Anniversary of the Cake Walk in 1999 when the cost of admission was increased to 50 cents.

Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, the Cake Walk was a formal affair with volunteers and attendees dressed in formal dresses, suits and ties. Card tables with formal white linens showed off the beautiful homemade cakes donated by band families. Card tables and chairs were also set up for those who liked to play cards or wanted to be served coffee and cake. Dancing and a sock hop usually followed the walks, replacing the 30-minute band concert. Members of the community were encouraged to donate cakes as well. Cakes that did not make the “cut” in appearance, were sliced up and sold with coffee.

During this time, the Cake Walk also expanded from one to three walk rings, and an RCA personal table model radio and a \$25 savings bond were the first raffle prizes given away. GHS art classes made posters to advertise the Cake Walk, which were displayed in the windows of local merchants. Due to its popularity and the dances held after the walks, the annual Cake Walk became the traditional first “date” for students in 6th grade, with the boy’s father driving the kids to and from the Cake Walk.

“Peace, Love, and Cake”

In the 1970s, doll cakes with the doll’s dress made of cake, became the rage along with spice cakes, carrot cakes, and other non-traditional cakes. Store-bought cakes slowly replaced many of the homemade cakes. Dress at the Cake Walks became casual for the students, but was still formal for the parents. The Cake Walk expanded to four rings of 30 chairs. The Cake Walk was so popular that during the 1972-73 school year, two Cake Walks were held – one in October and

one in March. The Junior High School band began playing at the Cake Walk in 1972, and 7th and 8th grade bands play at the event to this day.

Throughout the late 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the Cake Walk was often promoted in the *Tri-Village News* with a picture of the high school band’s officers, in uniform, holding a large cake that said, “Cake Walk.” This tradition evolved into the senior cake served to graduating band members after the Cake Walk or final band concert. In April 2019, senior members of the GHS band and director Chris Hermann posed for a picture with a 70th Anniversary Cake Walk cake in a nod to this past tradition. It was promptly eaten by the entire band.



Freshmen D. Colliver, K. Evans, C. Marcus, M. Membribes, P. McAllister, J. Timble, and B. Hull watch over the Cake Walk (1973 Highlander)

Icing on the Cake (Walk)

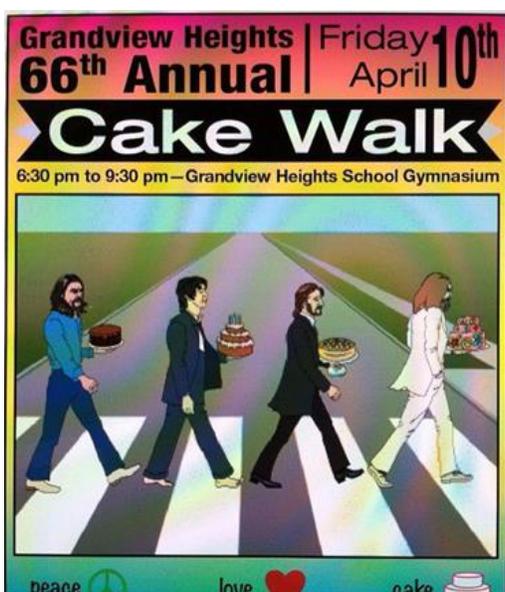
In 1980, the tradition of donating \$1 in exchange for the opportunity to direct the band for one walk began. At the 70th Cake Walk, 24 individuals put a dollar in the “Direct the Band” jar, including marching band senior Quinn Tillett, and directed the band for a walk.

In 1985, the start time for the Cake Walk was moved to its current start time of 6:30 pm, ensuring that kids of all ages could attend. Columbus Zoo animals were a special feature in 1990. In 2001, cake decorating contests were introduced. Through it all, the cost to walk in one of the cake rings remained 10 cents a walk. Not until 2003, 55 years after the Cake Walk began, did the price to participate in a walk increased to 20 cents. Even today, the cost to participate is only 3 walks for a \$1. And it was not until 2013

Cake Walk (cont'd)

that the price of admission to the Cake Walk was increased to \$1.

Other notable features of and changes to the Cake Walk over the years have included cake bingo, a coloring contest for t-shirt designs, games and face painting, movement of the bands and cakes to the bleachers (60th Anniversary in 2009), the “Mother’s Special” of a cupcake and milk for \$1 at the concession stand (2010), special pie rings, the expansion to 5 cake rings on the main floor with two of the five rings devoted to younger children, and Calk Walk themes and publicity based on pop culture.



Cake Walk publicity often had a humorous slant.

Recent events have included a flash mob performance by band parents, faculty and school administrators in the middle of the 2011 Cake Walk (see <https://youtu.be/GeH3eWjib4U>), a special uniform ring in 2016 that raised over a thousand dollars for new uniforms, and the introduction of a sixth ring in 2018 – a cupcake ring for preschoolers.

Life is a Cake Walk

For the past 70 years, GHHS alumni, local businesses, community leaders, families and members of the Grandview and Marble Cliff communities – young and old – have supported the Cake Walk and Grandview’s music programs. Every year, nearly 300 parents and band

members volunteer their time to put on this event, including donating their time as well as cakes. More than 1,000 community members pay the \$1 admission price and show their support for the bands.

When you ask people about the Cake Walk, they will tell you:

- 1) if they won a cake. Some kids leave empty handed, often in tears or maybe with a cake or cupcake that their parent bought to stop the tears, while others walk away with smiles on their faces and the joy of winning a cake.
- 2) that the Cake Walk is something for the entire family. Participating in walks as a student, then a parent, and eventually a grandparent is not uncommon.
- 3) that the Cake Walk is the first sign of spring - a chance to catch up with neighbors and friends and enjoy wholesome fun at little cost.

For these reasons, the Cake Walk is a fixed and cherished tradition in our communities.



*Meghan Watters,
GHHS Class of 2020
Alto Saxophone, GHHS Marching
Band & Jazz Ensemble;
article excerpted from
her new book on the 70-year
history of the Cake Walk, a Girl
Scout Gold Award Project.*

Time Marches On and So Does George

by Jackie Cherry, Society Trustee

How many people do you know who are planning to walk the entire length of this year's Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 25? I am fortunate to know a man who is planning to do just that and he is 95 years old! George Hecox, sometimes known as Jim in years past, has been returning to his roots to participate in this annual parade since 2002.

George grew up on Lincoln Road and was one of the Grandview students recruited by Dr. Roy Burkhart to become a member of the youth group he was forming at First Community

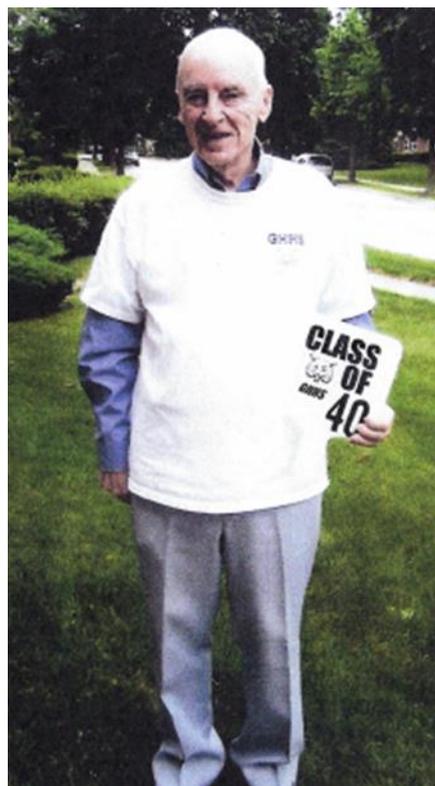


Church. It wasn't long until George became one of the church's youth leaders. He also was a member of Boy Scout Troop 10 that was sponsored by the church. As he did with so many promising young men, Dr. Burkhart tried to steer George toward seminary, but instead George chose to attend The Ohio State University.

George's GHHS Class of 1940 graduated 97 seniors, and soon many of them were going off to war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December the following year. George headed to Texas where he was trained as a mechanic in the Army Air Corps. He spent the war years supervising the mechanical readiness of B-17 bombers and has some interesting stories to tell about his experiences with those planes that were so crucial in America's eventual victory over the Axis powers.

After the war George headed back to Grandview and was named Scoutmaster for Troop 10 in December 1946. He also returned to OSU where he completed his degree as an industrial engineer. Over the ensuing years he worked in Michigan and New Mexico and currently resides in Wisconsin. He has four children and has been married to wife, Barbara, for 42 years. She accompanies him on his annual Memorial Day pilgrimage back to Grandview, but leaves participation in the parade to George.

They always arrive in town early enough to



attend the Grandview Alumni Association monthly luncheon where he enjoys visiting with classmate Connie Hollingsworth who is a regular at these lunches. There are still 13 living members of the Class of 1940.

It really is quite an amazing feat

for someone his age to choose walking the entire distance from Cambridge Boulevard to Oxley Road. One year before he learned that participants were provided a ride back to the starting point, he drove his car to the end of the parade route and left it with Barbara inside and then walked up the hill all the way back to Cambridge and First. George attributes his longevity to good genes. His grandmother lived to be 105 and his father was 99 when he died. So, hail to George Hecox. May he live long and continue to march in our Memorial Day Parade!



The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society

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ViewPoints is an occasional publication of the GH/MCHS.

EDITOR

Karen Riggs

Tour of Homes Looking for Volunteers

The Society is busy planning our triennial Tour of Homes which will be held **Sunday, October 6, 2019**. We are seeking volunteers to serve as house docents on the day of the tour. Docents will receive a free ticket to the tour. Shifts are just 3 hours long, leaving sufficient time for volunteers to tour homes. If interested, please send your name, phone, and email address to ghmctourhomes@gmail.com.

