



Indian Hill Historical Society

Mission:

*Keeping Indian Hill's
Past and Present Alive
for Tomorrow*

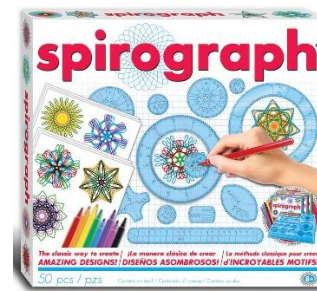
E-Newsletter, July 2019, Vol. 3

What's Been Happening?

**The History of Kenner Toys, May 19th,
4:30 p.m. Little Red Schoolhouse**

The tag line for Kenner Toys says it all – *It's Kenner, It's Fun!* And, it is and was! Some of the wonderful toys of our childhood were on display at the Little Red Schoolhouse. Corky Steiner (son of one of the founders of Kenner Toys) and Brian Powers (from the Public Library of Hamilton County and Cincinnati) presented the program. Corky worked at Kenner for over 30 years and shared the rich details about this local factory of fun.

Kenner Toys began in 1946 on Kenner St. (near Union Terminal) by the Steiner brothers (Al, Phil and Joe). The first product offerings were *Tom Collins Jr.* (a drink similar to 7-Up, before 7-up was made), *Ironbeer* (rootbeer which is still very popular in Cuba), *Grandpa Brands Pine Tar Soap* (still available in stores), and *Bromo Mint* (a type of bromo-seltzer). Toys were introduced into the product line and soon became the primary business for Kenner. A goal was to turn normal, everyday items used by adults into playthings for children. *BubbleMatic*, *Easy Bake Oven*, and *Close 'N Play Phonograph* were some of the early toys. The primary vehicle for advertising was comic books and



later cereal boxes! In the '70's, Lucas Productions was looking for a toy manufacturer for the first of the *Star Wars* movies. By the time that Kenner was approached, several larger toy manufacturers had turned down the business. George Lucas came to Cincinnati and met with one of the Steiner brothers and did the deal. And, as they say, the rest is history - it resulted in the most profitable line for Kenner. Corky related another interesting story about working with Lucasfilm. Kenner was geared up and ready for distribution of the toys for the *Revenge of the Jedi* – boxes were packed and ready to ship to stores. A Kenner representative attended a preview of the movie. As the movie started, he realized that the name had been changed to the *Return of the Jedi!* He immediately left the showing and raced to start revamping the packaging.

It was a very entertaining evening of laughs and learning.

Upcoming Events:

The Indian Hill Village Fourth of July Parade, 10 am.

Come wave flags, pass out candy, and have fun in the parade with the Historical Society. Just wave to us along the way, or contact the office if you'd like to participate!

July	August	September
<p>4th, 10:00 a.m. <u>The Indian Hill Village July 4th Parade</u> is a long-standing tradition and the Indian Hill Historical Society always participates.</p>	<p>The Annual Mailer which lists the programs for the upcoming season. Keep a lookout for it in the mail.</p>	<p>19th, 4:30 p.m. <u>Tales of Governing: Past & Present Mayors</u> For the last 30+ years, these mayors of Indian Hill have faced serious issues, achieved major accomplishments, and had a few chuckles along the way. Come listen to tales of the past and gain an insider's view on the management of the Village of Indian Hill.</p>

Please visit the website: www.indianhill.org for more details on these programs.

Member News, 2nd Quarter, 2019

New Members:

Marilyn & Gerard Hyland
Cora Ogle
Marcy Wydman

Renewals:

Diane Babcock
Helene & John Bentley
Ann & Stephen Bjornson
El Bougraf
Susan & Neil Bortz
Nancy Tehan & Hugh Brandt
Jeanie & Rob Champlin
Lucy Davis & Robert Safrin
Jean Davison
Carol & Troy DeBord
Kit & Dick Duval
Christine Eifers
Kathy & Stephen Fish
Blair Fleischmann
Noralee & Lewis Gatch
Ellen & Frank Grossi
Julie & Robert Heidt
Sandy Heimann

D.J. Hildebrandt
Sue & Bill Hill
Ed Jacobs
Martha Jones
Joyce & Fred Koehler
Kym & Mark Kuenning
Ruth Ann & Kent Little
Debby Bradley & John Mitchell
Cathy & Tom Moon
Natalie & Patrick Nesbitt
Bob & Mardie Off
The Orr Family
Mary Ann Ryan
Lynda & Ray Schilderink
Barbara Sutphin
Mary Uhlenbrock
William Weyand
Kristin & Holden Wilson

Member News, 2nd Quarter, 2019, *continued*

Business Members (New and Renewals):

Bahl & Gaynor Investment Counsel
 Creations by Melody
 English Rose Designs
 Michael F. Gehring, Attorney at Law
 Gibbs Insurance Associates
 Holzapfel Law
 InPrint Madeira
 Main Auction Gallery
 Mangat, Holzapfel & Lied Plastic Surgery
 Mariemont Inn

Mortgage House of America
 PFM Architecture, LLC
 Sandra's Scratch Kitchen
 Scott Concrete
 Sibcy Cline Realtors
 Taft / Focused Capitol Solutions
 Total Wealth Planning
 Turner Farm
 The V Collective

Interested in becoming a member? [Click here](#)

Thanks to Our Business Members

					
 Mariemont Inn					
					
					
					

Reflections of a Rider

By Lawre Finn Bonekemper

I grew up in Indian Hill and was a rider – what a wonderful place it was to live and explore with a pony / horse. In my neighborhood, just south of Montgomery, there were 10 barns with ponies and horses – lots of riding going on! My childhood friend, Ronne Sweeney, had ponies and later horses, and it was through her family that I learned to ride and develop a love for all things horse related.

In the summers, Ronne & I would pack a lunch, tack up the ponies, and head out on the trails. It seemed the world was ours to explore, and we did! Our range primarily included north of Montgomery and the 275 area (no highway then), through Peterloon, to Miamiville, Kroger Farm, Pony Club (where Turner Farm is today), Winding Creek Farm, and Greenacres – just to name a few. We had our favorite swimming “hole” on Winding Creek Farm where there was a dam so the water was really deep for the ponies. What bliss to cool off on the back of a swimming pony – joy for all! We had our favorite stretches for galloping (Peterloon, Greenacres, and Winding Creek). There were also many jumps on the trails which were always fun. Green gates seemed to be everywhere to allow access into many fields. We were always sure to close them, too, as we knew it was a privilege to be able to ride those lands.

There were days that we’d be gone all day and not return until dark. Our parents knew we were somewhere on horseback, but didn’t know the direction we headed in. More often than not, our trail home would lead us to Blome Road, and we



would have to cross “Silver Bridge” (as we called the one-lane bridge). If dusk had fallen, Mr. Sweeney, would drive down to “Silver Bridge” to wait for us. He would follow us across the bridge with his car lights on to ensure we would not be hit by a car while crossing the bridge. Mr. Sweeney would then drive home as we headed home via the trails. Our final leg of the trail was “Shower’s Hill”. It was tradition to race up the hill. The ponies would be filled with anticipation as they crossed the creek and pranced into the field below the hill. With an unspoken or unseen signal, the

ponies would takeoff, and we’d tear up the hill, legs churning below as the ponies galloped. By the top, the ponies were spent and happy, sides heaving, nostrils flaring – the adventure was over. We’d slowly walk back the rest of the way to the barn, giving the ponies time to recover, cool down and relax. Our adventure was done and another day awaited.

I no longer ride now, but the memories of days on horseback exploring the trails of Indian Hill with no worries, with freedom to roam, on ponies with great spirits, and friendship remain. I drive through the Village daily and see many of the old trails. With the development that’s occurred in the Village over the last 50+ years, many of the trails are gone (as are the green gates), but many remain. I’ve ridden in many other areas around the country and know first-hand how unique it is to have the Village trails and the maintenance provided by the Public Works Department. Indian Hill is a true treasure and a fabulous place for riding.



Green Gate



Ronne & I on Star before a costume class at Pony Club (now Turner Farm) – Mice & cheese!

Office News:

The office has quieted down a bit with the current program season over. Preparations for the Annual Program mailer are in full swing as the details are finalized for the 2019-2020 program season. It looks to be an interesting and fun line-up of programs such as a bourbon tasting, and topics including the women's suffragists movement, a behind the scenes look at the Village from both a governing perspective (mayors) and from a physical viewpoint (historical locations within the village), and the House Tour. The Schoolhouse has also been busy with many weddings this season – always joyous events.



Buckingham Lodge

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please contact us through email: history@indianhill.org or phone: 513-891-1873.

Happy Summer!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

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