

# The History of Canterbury Village

## Upper Arlington, Ohio



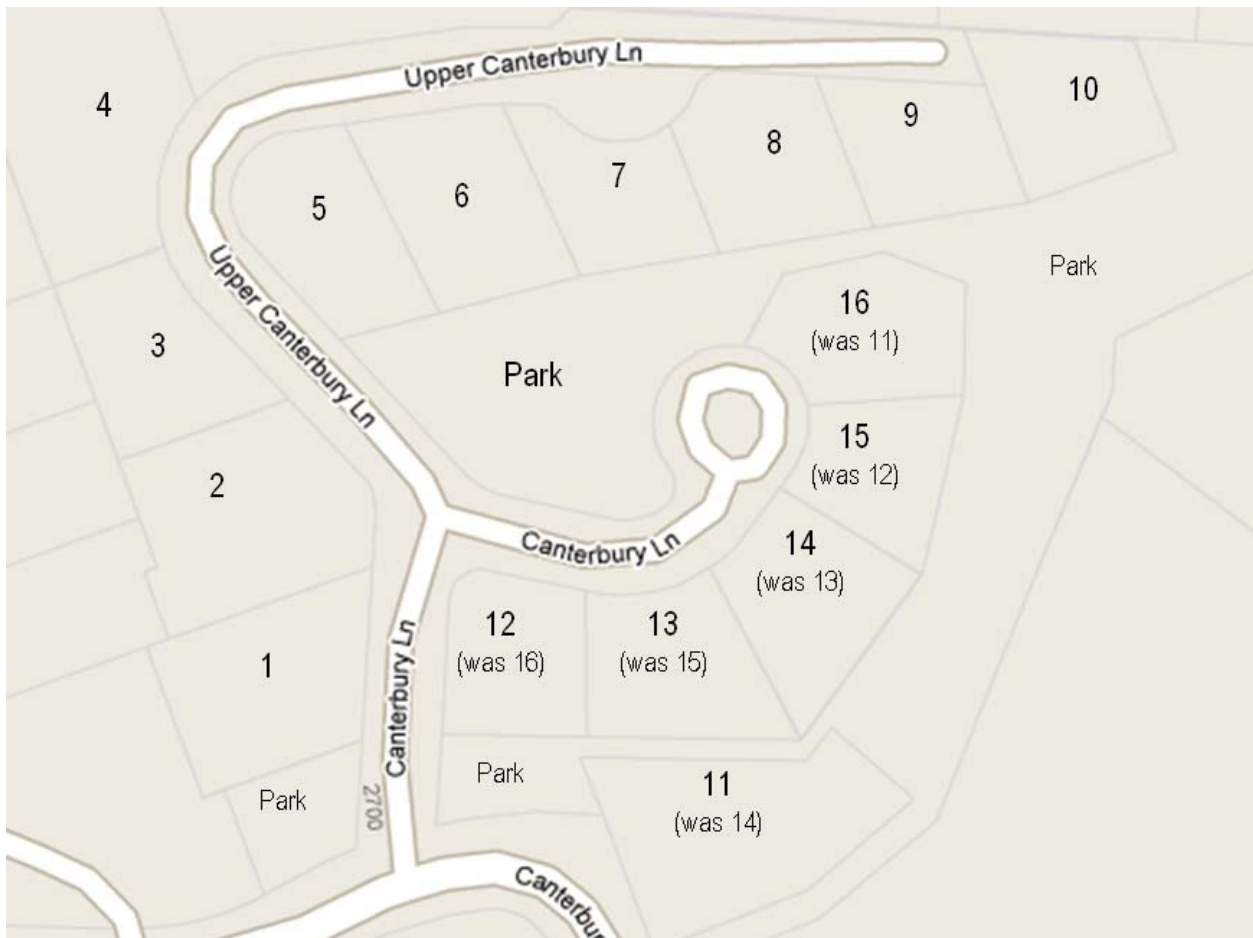
*Assembled by Dorothy (Dotty) Garvin Tonjes with help from Charles (Chuck) Durrant  
and the 50s-60s Village Kids for the July 4, 2010 reunion.*

## A Unique Community

Canterbury Village is a unique community of 16 homes located northeast of the intersection of Canterbury Road and Riverside drive, in Upper Arlington, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus. It was established after World War II by a diverse group of friends who were seeking homes for their rapidly growing families. The founders had a few basic concepts:

- Homes would have smaller yards but central park areas for kids to play and neighbors to gather
- Lots would be sold to people they knew
- Kitchen windows would face the central park so stay-at-home moms could keep track of the kids playing
- There would be no fences, no sidewalks, no street lights, and no power lines\*
- Everyone would be both friends and neighbors

It worked out well. Homes were built, families grew, kids had lots of friends in the neighborhood, mothers cooperated in scheduling car-pools, and dads manned their fertilizer spreaders and a big gang mower to maintain the common areas.



**Canterbury Village**

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\* However underground power lines proved to be too expensive for the young families so lines were not buried.

## In the Beginning

The concept for Canterbury Village began with the “One-Bedroom East Siders”, a group of young professional men who gathered on Friday nights in the years following World War II and struggled with the question of “How soon can I build a home suitable to raise a family?” The group included Gene Durrant, Wray Troutwine, Bob Morris, Bill Randall, Victor Thompson, and John Seidel.<sup>†</sup> John Seidel had recently encountered a woman along High Street holding her dead child killed by a car, and he wanted to ensure that wherever they built, there would be safe places for their children to play.

The apartments the men and their families were living in were nice enough for a couple, but became cramped as they started having children. The war had slowed construction of new homes so it was nearly impossible to find a suitable home for a growing family. As King Thompson, Victor’s father, was planning the Canterbury Place subdivision, Victor approached him about acquiring a piece of land that the group could develop themselves.

The Canterbury Village Company began officially in 1947 and monies were collected (\$600 per lot) to get the land for the Village. John Seidel, Victor Thompson, Bill Randall, and Frank Sayers (Pete’s brother) were key drivers. The 9 acres that was to become the Village was obtained through King Thompson’s Arlington Ridge Company. King Thompson and his brother Ben developed Upper Arlington and were unsure what to do with this odd-shaped property surrounded by ravines. A bridge from Edington Road was considered.

- “I think that my Uncle Victor Thompson, then a young architect who had started a family with my father’s sister Marianne (I think three of their four children had been born by 1947), had the original idea for the land his father hadn’t yet figured out how to develop. At any rate, that would explain why the original founders were all connected to Uncle Vic: he had recruited a cousin (Sayers), a brother-in-law (Randall), and a friend (Seidel) to help him realize his dream. Our father used to say that ‘King Daddy’ (as he was known in the family) had given his son a special deal on the property, which the Villagers might not have been able to afford otherwise.” (Lew )

Bill Randall, a lawyer with Porter, Stanley, Treffinger & Platt, drew up the incorporation papers for the Canterbury Village Corporation. Victor Thompson and John Seidel, both architects, laid out Canterbury Village. Bob Morris, who was a civil engineer, laid out Upper and Lower Canterbury Lanes. The design included a then radical concept of a central park where kids were safe to play. Dick Michael remembers walking up to the land that would become the Village from Route 33, before Canterbury Road was extended to Riverside Drive. Marjorie Sayers remembered that their lot cost \$1,200 (or it may have been \$1,700).

The farm for the Village property had belonged to the Trapp family. The lot near the Sayerses was the Deavers’, which Dr. Sayers purchased in 1959. The interurban train used to run through the property, and many railroad spikes were found on the Durrant property and throughout the Village. The line ran between the Durrants and Route 33. The lot owners helped to clear to land by hand, mainly scrub plants.

Victor Thompson designed the Randalls’, Sayerses’ and Prebuses’ houses, and John Seidel designed the Seidel’s and the Garvins’ and helped with a number of other homes.

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<sup>†</sup> From, *The Columbus Citizen* article, “Card Club Dreams Fulfilled at Last...Young Architects Develop Canterbury Village.” March 15, 1953.

Homes were to cost no less than \$10,000.00. The homes were ranch houses, with the predominant theme of redwood and stone. The deed restrictions, which were to be in effect until 1999, stated that no home could be sold to or occupied by “any person or persons in whole or in part of the Negro race or blood” but people not of the white race could be employed as servants.

- These deed restrictions may have been standard throughout Upper Arlington, since I do not remember a single black student enrolled in any Upper Arlington school. (Dotty)

## Original Lot Purchasers and First Occupants

A Master Plot Plan dated 4-24-47 by Thompson, Seidel, and Heenan showed 16 homes numbered from 1 through 16 (11 through 16 were renumbered by hand). The following names were listed as people selected their sites:

Lot Number	Signature	Date Signed	First Occupants	Date House Complete <sup>‡</sup>
1	Blank		Peter and Marjorie Sayers	1952
2	George S. Kepley	5-1-47	George and Marcia Kepley	1952
3	Charles E. Rarey	5-1-47	Clarence and Mary Cole	1952
4	E.J Kellogg	4-27-47	Gene and Nathalie Durrant	1951
5	Blank		Joe Jr. and Wanda Ray	1953
6	Blank	5-4-47	Dick and Nancy Michael	1953
7	Blank		William Sr. and Carol Browne	1952
8	Robert K. Morris	5-1-47	Bob and Christine Williams	1952
9	William L Heins [?]		Bob and Mary Morris	1953
10	Victor K. Thompson	4-23-47	Bill and Ann Randall	1951
11 (now 16)	William H. Gilmore [?]	5-3-47	Chuck and Audrey Hood	1952
12 (now 15)	Wray R. Troutwine	5-1-47	Wray and Ann Troutwine	1952
13 (now 14)	J M Seidel	5-1-47	John and Polly Seidel	1951
14 (now 11)	William O. Randall	5-4-47	Mac Lee and Judy Henney	1953
15 (now 13)	W. E. Durrant	5-1-47	Albert and Helen Prebus	1954
16 (now 12)	Blank		John and Betty Garvin	1951

In September 1947, the Canterbury Village Company was incorporated with John M. Seidel, William O. Randall, and Wray R. Troutwine functioning as the corporation until the first meeting would be held. John Seidel was president and Bill Randall was secretary. The land was obtained from the Arlington Ridge Realty Company on March 16, 1948. (Tax records give the date as April 22, 1949).

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<sup>‡</sup> This data was obtained from the Franklin County Auditor's website: <http://www.franklincountyauditor.com>.

The Seidel house was the first to be completed followed shortly by the Randalls', Durrants', and Garvins'. Many of the men helped build their own homes and had a system of tracking labor as they also helped each other. John Seidel laid 300 tons of his stonework, and Chuck Hood built his living room fireplace.

## Who Knew Who

Figuring out how each family originally connected to the Village is a lot like playing Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon:

- John and Polly Seidel, John Garvin, George Kepley, Peter and Marjorie Sayers, Ann Troutwine, Nancy Michael, and Gene Durrant went to Upper Arlington High School.
- Marjorie Sayers, Wanda Ray, Nancy Michael, Polly Seidel, Audrey Hood, and Ann Troutwine were sorority sisters in Kappa Alpha Theta at Ohio State University.
- Nathalie Durrant, Judy Henney, and Judy's sister Laddie, were sorority sisters in Pi Beta Phi at Ohio State.
- Chuck Hood and Joe Ray, Jr., were fraternity brothers in Phi Gamma Delta at Ohio State.
- The Toutwines, Seidels, and Morrisises all lived in the same 4-family apartment on the far east side of Columbus, on Kenwick Rd.
- Gene Durrant, Wray Troutwine, Bob Morris, Bill Randall, Victor Thompson, and John Seidel played cards together on Friday nights.
- John Garvin and Marjorie Sayers are siblings.
- Bill Randall's sister, Marianne, married Victor Thompson.
- Victor Thompson and Peter Sayers are cousins.
- Dick Michael knew John Seidel because his mother gave Dick piano lessons.
- The Prebuses and Randalls were great friends and neighbors in north Columbus. They knew each other through University School where Lew Randall and John Prebus were in the same class.
- The Prebuses brought the Brownes and Williams into the Village, probably knowing them because of work that OSU and Battelle were doing together. Bill Browne Sr. and Bob Williams worked together at Battelle and Gail and Mimi Williams also went to University School.
- Pete Sayers and Mac Lee Henney were in the civilian pilot training program together.
- "My dad and Bill Randall may have grown up together, because somehow we ended up with an elementary school 'primer' that belonged to Bill Randall. I know Dad served the Village as legal council for many years." (Debbie)



**The Village Under Construction**

## Departures

Like all new ventures, especially those involving young families, plans changed and people who intended to make the Village their home departed after the Village was conceived.

- “Victor Thompson was an architect, and shortly after organizing the Village he received an invitation to join the faculty of Stanford University, as a professor of art and architecture—an offer he couldn’t refuse. That was when he and his wife Marianne offered Mother and Dad (Bill and Ann Randall) lot number 10—the lot the Thompsons had chosen for themselves above all others—and lot 14 went back in the pot, to be picked up by the Henneys.” (Lew)
  - “Aunt Marianne’s asthma was life-threateningly serious, and her doctor told Victor they’d have to move out West or she might not survive, so they moved, turning their lot over to us.” (Allison)
- Bill Gilmore’s parents had an office next to John Seidel’s but Bill needed a house sooner because they were expecting a baby so they did not become part of the Village.

But the Village seems to have been very stable during the 50s and 60s with many people living in their homes for many decades or even over 50 years and counting. There were a few changes:

- The Kepleys moved out in 1954, and Ross and Joanne Bleak moved in.
- The Coles built a home and moved in but Clarence was in vet school and his wife did not drive. Suburban living did not work for them. In 1955 Bob and Liz McGuire moved into the home.
- Wray Troutwine was transferred out west, and, in 1961; John and Marge Haldi moved in.
- In 1963, the Seidels sold their home to Dean and Juanita Walcutt, and Hoods sold their home to Roger and Llewellyn Cloud.

## The Village About 1953-1963

Originally, all the house numbers were 2850-x, where x was the lot number. Henneys (2840) and Sayers (2860) were the exceptions. A few decades ago, the post office computerized and could no longer handle the numbering scheme devised in 1947. They changed the addresses to a more conventional form.

Lot Number	Current Number	Parents	Occupation	Kids
1	2859	Martin Peter (Pete) and Marjorie Sayers	Neurosurgeon	Daniel (Dan), Steven (Steve), Julia, and Elaine
2	2857	Ross and Joanne Bleak	Psychiatrist	Charles (Charlie) and Jennifer
3	2855	Clarence and Mary Cole	Veterinary Professor at OSU	Carole, Pam, and Larry
		Robert (Bob) and Elizabeth (Liz) McGuire	Company Owner—Fasteners	Terry and Mike
4	2853	Eugene (Gene) and Nathalie Durrant	Insurance and Investment Broker. English Teacher.	William (Bill) and Charles (Chuck)
5	2851	Joe Jr. and Wanda Ray	Insurance Agent & Agency Owner	Joseph Ray III (Joe), Nancy, and Richard (Rick)
6	2849	George Richard (Dick) and Nancy Michael	Insurance Agent & Agency Owner	David, Diane, and Douglas (Doug)

Lot Number	Current Number	Parents	Occupation	Kids
7	2847	William Sr. (Bill) and Carol Browne	Mechanical Engineer at Battelle	William (Bill), James (Jim), and Peggy
8	2845	Robert (Bob) and Christine (Chris) Williams	Metallurgical Engineer at Battelle	Abigail (Gail) and Miriam (Mimi)
9	2843	Robert (Bob) and Mary Morris	Civil Engineer	Peter, Todd, and Robin
10	2841	William (Bill) and Ann Randall	Lawyer & then CFO of the Columbus & Southern Ohio Electric Company	Lewis (Lew), Allison, Sherman (Sherm), and Thomas (Thom)
11	2840	Mac Lee and Judy Henney	Lawyer	Scott, Debbie, Cyndy, and Tina
12	2839	John and Elizabeth (Betty) Garvin	Anesthesiologist	Dorothy (Dotty), Martha (Marti), Mary, and John Charles (Charlie)
13	2837	Albert (Al) and Helen Prebus	Physics Professor at OSU. English Professor at OSU.	Allen, John, Donald, Cynthia (Thia)
14	2835	John and Polly Seidel	Architect	Joy and Andrew (Andy)
15	2833	Wray and Ann Troutwine	Insurance Broker	Julie and Carol
		John and Marjorie (Marge) Haldi	Vice Pres, Program Director, 10 TV	Lisal and Brian
16	2831	Chuck and Audrey Hood	Chemist, Rose Chemical company owner	Judy, Sally, Molly, and Susan (Susie)

There was much talent in the Village. When someone got hurt, one of the doctors in the Village patched them up. Mr. Henney was the source of quick answers to legal questions. Once their kids got older, Mrs. Durrant and Mrs. Prebus were the two women in the Village who worked outside the home. Both taught English and were excellent sources to answer grammar questions.

- Dr. Prebus was instrumental in developing the electron microscope and was mentioned in the Our Mr. Sun movie made by Bell.

## Riverside Drive

In 1957, the Lovelesses built a home next to the Village. While not officially a part of the Village, they and the Walls became “adopted” into the Village.

Address	Year Built	Parents	Occupation	Kids
2990	1958	Robert and Julia Wall	Hematologist/Oncologist	Bruce, Kyme, Rob, and Wendy
3008	1960	John E. and Lorna Loveless	General Contractor (Gentry Homes). Built the Wall, Loveless and Zentner homes	Leslie, Wendy, David, Jim, and Lindsey
3016	1957	John E. and Lorna Loveless		
	(1960)	Manuel and Barbara Zentner		

- “When we moved to the house next door, the Zentners moved in our old house. My Dad intended to build a home for his parents on the Walls lot, but, his parents decided to stay in their house on Charing Road instead. My first Real Estate sale was selling the Walls house to the Pisanellis. Dr. Pisanelli just passed away in 2009.” (Leslie)

## Growing Up in Canterbury Village

Looking back, everyone realizes what a unique experience it was to grow up in Canterbury Village in the 50s and 60s.

Before Hillary, our parents recognized that it takes a Village to raise a child. While we were pretty free to roam the Village as we pleased, we also knew that if we did anything wrong, a parent would appear and not hesitate to set us straight. Elaine Sayers even remembers being spanked by Mrs. Michael for something she did. There were no lawsuits brought for these actions, and your parents knew immediately of any misdeeds; you were in real trouble when you got home.



**An Early Village Picnic**

- “We had the yard stick at our house in case spanking was necessary, but the razor straps hanging in the Sayers bathroom was something we stared at most reverently and certainly wanted to avoid at all costs.” (Diane)
- “Feeling loved, safe, and free to dream and explore was another gift of having 16 sets of ‘parents,’ who really cared about each and every one of us growing up. It always amazed me when I was at CV wives or couples gatherings and a village parent would ask me about some aspect of my life, during childhood, teen years, and even as an adult when I would come home to visit. I really felt a sincere sense of interest and caring that comes from families raising their kids together and doing whatever they could to provide the best environment in which to do that. I will always be grateful to my parents and all the families of Canterbury Village for the gift of growing up there.” (Robin)

Parents used various methods to call us home for dinner or to go to bed. There were dinner bells, cow bells, whistles, and shouting your name from the front porch. If you didn't hear it, someone else would and send you on your way before you got into trouble for being late to dinner.

- "I remember some of the neighbors had big bells to call the kids home. Our mom would use her voice and trill a kind of a yodel. She said our dog would always appear first so she knew the direction we would be coming from." (Diane)

When we had a heavy rain, the drain between the Durrants' and Rays' became a big puddle, sometimes helped by a blanket covering the drain. The puddle provided great entertainment.

- "I remember covering the drains on the roads in the park, especially the one opposite the McGuire house, and playing in, what seemed like at the time, big puddles, was such fun. Also, I remember joyfully running around the village in my bathing suit in the rain when I was little without a care in the world!" (Robin)
- "If it rained hard in the summer sometimes we put on our bathing suits and played in puddles and around the drains in the street." (Marti)
- "I remember the simple things like drinking water from a garden hose, playing Cowboys and Indians all-day long, or chasing squirrels and shooting Red Ryder BB guns at tin cans down on the Scioto River. Riding our bikes everywhere without any care or a helmet. Boys just being boys." (Mike)
- "Elaine and I spent endless hours in an apple tree in her back yard. What a fun place to grow up!!!" (Lisal)
- "I remember the wall of grapes in the Sayerses' driveway. I remember leaning over the fence just a bit too far to get that one big grape and falling into the drive breaking my arm. I think I was four." (Diane)
- "To this day, I remember the black berries over on the Duro's Dude Ranch. We would pick 4-5 buckets full and mom would make jams and jellies to last throughout the winter months." (Mike)
- "I think back at how we descended on the Morris front yard gathering up the Mulberries. Not one time did we get yelled at for squishing the berries all over the yard and front walk. I am sure it created a stained mess!" (Diane)
- "The Morrises had a huge sandbox that we loved to play in. We would make castles and then use the garden hose to fill the moat. One time we squished the mulberries to try to make mulberry juice." (Gail)
- "I remember sitting on top of the Village entrance pillars by our driveway and waiting as dads would come home from work. We would jump on the running boards of the car(s) and ride up the hill hanging on for dear life." (Marti)
- "With the park, horse trails, and ravine, there were endless places to play and explore, no matter what the season. Imaginative outdoor play with a host of friends and neighbors was a hallmark of growing up in Canterbury Village." (Robin)

## Party, Party, Party!

The Villagers liked to party whenever there was an opportunity. Parents would get dressed up and have cocktail parties that went late into the night. The moms looked so glamorous in cocktail dresses and jewelry, especially Mrs. Durrant and Mrs. Seidel. Since everyone was close, driving was not a problem.

- “Every time I saw Mrs. Garvin she laughed and reminded me about the New Year’s Eve party I broke up because Mom went into labor with me and Dr. Garvin and Dr. Sayers went to the hospital with her to wait for my grand entrance into the world!” (Debbie)

It seems like every Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day, there was a potluck party in the park with everyone hauling over card tables, chairs, and their favorite dishes to share. The food was delicious. After everyone ate, the kids went off to play games in the park while the adults visited.

- “When there was a picnic we usually had ice cream bars in a cooler with dry ice. All the kids were fascinated by and wanted to play with the dry ice. Jell-O salads made appearances in many incarnations.” (Marti)
- “At the village picnics, we always looked forward to Mrs. Morris’s amazing double layer cakes. Also the Sayerses’ and Garvins’ Grandma Garvin made the most wonderful melt-in-your-mouth mints.” (Diane)
- “Village picnics were delightful gatherings with each household’s favorite dishes to share, but Mrs. Sayers’ (actually Marian Garvin’s) mints were unforgettably delicious! I always looked forward to those picnics, no matter what the occasion, just to see everyone at one time.” (Robin)



**Christmas Party – Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Morris, Gwen Trudeau (friend), Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. Bleak, Mrs. Williams,**



**Village Picnic**

On Halloween, someone often had a Halloween party or created a spook house for everyone to go through. There was bobbing for apples at Randalls and screaming at the spook house in Williamses' basement when you put your hand put in a bowl of eyeballs (peeled grapes). The Prebus and Hood homes were other venues for scary Halloween parties.

- "One Halloween the Seidels had a coffin that opened up, and Mr. Seidel sat up. And another time the Prebuses decorated their home into a 'scary' house." (Chuck)
- "I remember a party at the Bleaks' after trick or treating—Was there one there every year? And I remember my little brothers Sherm and Thom rigging up a black cardboard coffin on our front porch with a string that reached up above it into our bathroom window, so they could pull the coffin open when anyone approached, and it looked like the 'body' inside was opening the lid. Sherm and Thom were sad to discover that the young kids were actually terrified instead of thinking it was 'nifty'." (Allison)
- "Halloween was always a treat, especially visiting the Randalls' house with 'George' in the coffin (who sounded a lot like Thom Randall and who was really quite friendly), the headless horseman on the mailbox, and a ghost rigged up in the woods by their house to fly over our heads as we walked up the driveway to the house. I looked forward to that every year. What a gift to be able to go to all those houses in our neighborhood for Halloween in complete safety. The homemade costumes we all wore were cute too. I vaguely recall a 'spook house' at the Henneys one year, complete with peeled grapes for eyeballs and cooked spaghetti for intestines. That was pretty creepy but fun!" (Robin)

On Christmas, we gathered and traipsed around the Village singing Christmas Carols to whoever was home with a new baby or a grandparent. Afterwards the whole Village tramped into Garvins for hot chocolate and a vast collection of cookies that all the mothers brought over.



### **Caroling Around the Village**

- "I distinctly remember the younger families caroling to the elders and then gathering at the Browne's or Garvin's for everyone's homemade cookies and possibly a visit from Santa. I loved the Randall's sleigh bells and harmonizing with Mrs. Randall and others when I was older." (Robin)

At Easter, parents organized Easter Eggs hunts in the park.

- "I remember Easter egg hunts in the park on cold April mornings before church. Eggs hidden the night before or early in the morning often would freeze. My mom cleverly put out Styrofoam eggs with a typed note attached to redeem for a real egg at Michaels." (Diane)

Mothers had frequent meetings, ostensibly to plan carpools and take care of other business, but considerable socializing went on.

## Fourth of July

Fourth of July was a big deal in Upper Arlington. Instead of being able to sleep in, some civic-minded dads like Joe Ray Jr. or John Seidel would drive around Upper Arlington with loud speakers waking people up, including calling out their names and admonishing them if nobody was up and about. Every Fourth of July, you could count on them driving around the Village and waking you up. We always had a Village picnic and often a float in the Upper Arlington parade.

- "One year the theme was 'Natives' of Upper Arlington with a grass teepee on a flatbed truck. We won a prize that year." (Chuck)



**Carol Troutwine and Sally Hood; Natives of Arlington Float**

- "One of the Village July 4th float's theme was 'We drool for a New Pool' to encourage UA to build an additional community pool at Tremont Elementary School. We had inflatable pools (filled) on the flatbed truck and the kids were in bathing suits. One of the bigger boys sat in an elevated life guard chair with a striped umbrella." (Marti)
- "Another year our float theme was 'Safety in Numbers' The kids each held up a sign with a number relating to the village: '16 families' '52 kids', '14 dogs', '60 bikes' '32 cars' or some numbers like those." (Marti)
- "One year, John Garvin organized a train of cars as our last minute entry. His Nash Rambler red convertible was the little red caboose." (Marti)
  - "Marti's memory of the train of cars was the year our Village theme was 'The Little Engine That Could'. The 'Little Engine' was metaphorically the Village, and leading the train of cars, was our little black Morris Minor. I remember Lew had a large oil can with which he kept leaning out and supposedly oiling the wheels of the 'engine'. I must have been riding next to him." (Allison)

## Kids Activities

When the Village was first created, the Village had to pay for putting the roads in and they were initially graveled. It was hard learning to ride your bike on gravel, but once you learned to ride your bike on gravel, you could ride it anywhere.

It was wonderful when the road was finally paved. Suddenly every kid was riding their bicycles around and around the Village. Then we discovered roller skates, and we also started skating around the Village in metal roller skates, fastened tightly to our leather shoes with a skate key.

- “I remember also roller skating ‘round and ‘round in the Hoods’ garage. What a racket that made with four or five of us in there, but it was so nice and smooth, which the road was not. I remember that skating on the road for too long made my head buzz from the vibrations of all those tiny bumps!” (Allison)

The boys built a tree house fort behind the McGuires’ house that seemed to be really high off the ground. Girls were not allowed in it, although sometimes we tried to get in. There were also forts built behind Randalls’ home in various locations. The girls liked to gather under some big bushes back there and hide from the boys.

- “As far as forts go, we loved playing in the one by the Randalls’ house in the ravine, so high up in the trees. I remember feeling like a bird in that one.” (Robin)



**Carole Cole, Andy Seidel, Cyndy Henney, Judy Hood, Carol Troutwine,  
Sally Hood, Nancy Ray, and Mary Garvin**

- “There was a time when my Mom made me get a perm for my long hair and I looked so silly with the ringlets that some of the girls in the village started calling me ‘Flower,’ so I started a Flower club where we each took the name of a flower we liked and began meeting behind the Sayerses’ house by a stone ‘altar’ of sorts that felt like a ‘secret’ spot. I remember lots of talking and giggling at those meetings.” (Robin)

## Getting to School

Before Tremont School was built in 1952, school age kids took the bus to Barrington unless they went to St. Agatha (Hoods) or University School (Randalls, Williams, and Prebuses).

- “I remember when Joy and I were in first or second grade and it was a snowy day. We tried to go to the bus stop at the corner of Canterbury and Charing, but the boys kept throwing snow balls at us. Bill and Jim Browne, Bill Durrant, and Joe Ray had pretty good arms on them and those snow balls hurt. Joy and I were in tears as we ran through the snow to my home. My grandfather Tuttle was living with us then and was shaving in his undershirt. He was a big man and took off with shaving cream on his face and a sleeveless undershirt and really scolded the boys. All their bravado disappeared and suddenly it was ‘No, Reverend Tuttle. We won’t do that again.’” (Dotty)

Once Tremont School was built, we were expected to ride our bikes to school. The rule was to ride your bike if the temperature was at least 40 degrees and it was not raining. Otherwise the well-oiled carpool schedule kicked in and some mother would load up her station wagon with kids. I still remember how hard it was to ride up Canterbury Hill with your books and lunch in your bicycle baskets —especially if you did not get a good running start down Canterbury Lane. It is no wonder that childhood obesity was never a problem growing up in the Village in spite of the high-calorie foods we ate

- “We rode down the Canterbury hill on our bicycles no handed.” (Chuck and Debbie)
- “If you ever stayed after school, and missed the carpool, you were expected to walk home. Sometimes you were lucky and someone in the Village passed you and gave you a ride home. Otherwise you thought nothing of walking the 1.5 miles home.” (Dotty)
- “I think Chuck or his brother kindly gave me a ride part the way home when I was about 5 or 6 years old. I was left behind by the carpool on the last day of school.” (Jennifer)

By the time we graduated to Jones Junior High, it was no longer cool to ride your bikes to school so we were able to persuade our parents to create a Junior High Carpool. We had a girls’ carpool and a boys’ carpool. These carpools existed throughout our high school career, although as Upper Arlington expanded, they added school bus service to the Junior High. If you stayed after school, you were expected to walk the 2.5 miles home. (Dotty)

## The Park

As intended, the Park became central to most kids activities. The favorite place to meet was the rock in the park. It was also good for playing King of the Mountain.

- “We met at the Big Rock for carpool! My Mother was always late for carpool. No change there!” (Lisal)
- “I think when the Frisbee and the Hula Hoop where introduced as new toys in the Mid-50s every Canterbury kid had one and would always meet in the park to play.” (Mike). Later, Pogo sticks were the rage.
- “Growing up, our parents kept sending us outside to play and get ‘Fresh Air.’ We did not have play dates or play too many organized sports. However, there was always somebody to play with. First you checked the park to see if there was a softball game going on or something else. Then you made the rounds. If Joy wasn’t home, there was always Gail, Allison, or Judy – or someone younger—or the BOYS.” (Dotty)

- “I think there were more girls my age or approximately my age than of any other age group in the Village. I felt very lucky that Dotty Garvin, Judy Hood, Joy Seidel and I were all the same age, and Mimi Williams was one year younger and Gail one year older. That’s a LOT of playmates to choose from!” (Allison)
- “The summer the two or more big pine trees were added to the center park. The dads dug the holes, either by hand or a back hoe. Uncle Pete may have been in charge. We huddled down in those holes that were four or so feet deep, and told ghost stories for several nights in a row. Dan, Sally, Chuck, Scott, and I were there and others.” (Marti)



**Pete Sayers and Gene Durrant  
Planting a Tree**

## Games in the Park

Some activity was usually going on in the park, with pickup baseball (mostly monkey move-up), kickball, and football games being the most common. Of course, there were no referees or uniforms, and we adapted the rules to how many people were available at the moment and what sports equipment we had at the time. Whatever game was going on involved a lot of running.

Especially in the summer evenings after dinner, a favorite game was hide-and-seek. Night after night, we would gather by the then little tree at the east end of the park, which was home base. We would spread out in and around the park, trying to hide until the coast was clear to race back to tag the tree before we ourselves got tagged by the person who was it. We played until called in to go to bed.

- “My favorite memories are of all the wonderful stuff that happened on the Village Green: football, baseball, hide-and-seek until it was too dark to see, Red Rover, the Christmas caroling, the Christmas lights on the big evergreen.” (Allison)
- “I remember hide and seek: I especially remember the fireflies (here on the West coast, where I have lived since 1964, there are no fireflies).” (Lew)
- “If there were enough kids, we often played red rover.” (Chuck Durrant)
- Boys liked to play basketball at McGuires’, Durrants’, or Morris’s’.
- “We went from house to house, knocking on doors, to get up a baseball game. We would meet on the village green, and choose up sides by tossing a bat, catching it, and walking hands up the handle: last boy to get a good grip on the bat got first choice of teammates. We argued endlessly about what constituted a good grip. It took at least two fingers, as I recall. Boys with cool equipment were valued as much as the best players.” (Lew)
- “Since we could never field full teams, we often had to make do with just a pitcher, a first baseman, and a few fielders. The batting team supplied the catcher, which posed obvious ethical problems. There were many disputes about whether the catcher was doing his duty to the team in the field. We also negotiated rules governing fly balls, to compensate for the paucity of outfielders and basemen. Sometimes it seemed as if we spent more time negotiating than playing. An education in itself!” (Lew)

- “My strongest Village baseball memory was of a particular game where many different ages and both sexes were playing together. (My brother Lew and I wonder whether this was perhaps at or after a Village picnic, since it was unusual). I remember the older kids being very kind to little Todd Morris, who ran very slowly because of his bad heart. I don’t remember whether Todd actually batted or someone batted for him, but I remember his running the bases and the ball being amazingly fumbled or missed several times, and kids somehow unable to touch him with the ball. The overjoyed look on his face when he got a home run is strongly etched in my memory.” (Allison)
- “I remember numerous games of kickball and hide-and-seek in the park which I looked forward to every evening, especially in the summer.” (Robin)
- “We played horses in the park.” (Marti)



**Easter 1956: Steve Sayers, Rick Ray, Robin Morris, Julie Sayers, Charlie Garvin, Molly Hood, and Cynthia Prebus**

## Ravines, Horse Trails, and the Drive-In Movie

The Village was isolated to the north by a drive-in movie and horse trails from Jimmy Duros riding stable. (Jimmy was later our bus driver and created an amusement park and golf course that have become part of the Columbus Zoo.) To the east and south were ravines and to the west was the River Road. The ravines, horse trails, and the drive-in movie offered all sorts of adventures for us young kids.

When we tired of the park, we headed to explore the ravines that surrounded the Village. A big thrill was to go from the ravine behind Henneys’ to the ravine across the road through the tunnel (which our parents forbade us to do).

- “The ravine ran right beside our house, and I used to follow the stream, past the Hoods, Troutwines, Seidels, and Henneys, all hardly visible up the steep hill through the trees, to the tunnel into the next ravine. I remember that there were huge sycamore trees close to the stream bed, some with their roots in the water. Through the second tunnel one could get to the park on the bank of the Scioto River, without having to cross the (dangerous) River Road. In the summers I would take a book with me and sit on the low-hanging branch of a big maple tree, out over the river, and read for hours.” (Lew)
- “I remember playing in the ravine behind Henneys to Hoods especially on the huge pipe that crossed above the creek. We used it for a balance beam and hung from it and swung on it.” (Marti)
- “I think my brothers and some other village boys built a fort in a tree across from the outdoor theater, hooking up a speaker so we could watch the movies from there. I believe this was across from the Brownes’ and Michaels’ houses.” (Robin)

- “The buckeye trees by the movie theater produced lots of buckeyes in the fall that were fun to gather and/or throw.” (Mike)
- “Going across Canterbury and down to the end of the tunnel to catch crawdads/skimmers, being brave enough to go through either tunnel.” (Chuck)

Another adventure was to go hop the fence and go to the drive-in movie that bounded the north end of the Village. Often we would sit on the cement speaker stands, wrapped in a blanket if it was cool, and listen to the movie on the speakers. There was playground equipment up front and benches that we also used.

- “A really important memory for me was ‘hopping over the fence’ into the outdoor movie theatre, to sit on a blanket which we brought with us, a group of us congregating around a stand which held two speakers. I loved seeing movies that way!” (Allison)
- “I remember the Drive-in Theater, sitting in the last row, watching some movies two or three times. We looked for cars in the back rows with steamed-up windows.” (Chuck)
- “Brigitte Bardot was my first girl friend. I fell in love with her at the Miles Scioto Drive in the mid-50s.” (Mike)

## Winter Memories

In the winter, we put Christmas lights on a big evergreen in the park. There were several places to sled including runs between the Randall, Morris, and Williams houses and between the Seidel and Prebus houses. There was a huge hill in the ravine, which may have been a motorcycle hill, affectionately called suicide hill. We raced down the hill and typically someone crashed and everyone thought they had been killed. (No helmets).

- “Motorcycle Hill was the run down the hill opposite the Henney house that extended from the last house on Edington Road to the creek. It was the best sled ride in the area!” (Mike)
- “The hill behind the Henneys was great for sledding. We called it suicide hill, and tried to make it from the top all the way to the creek. The hill behind the Randalls was great too.” (Chuck)
- “We Randalls liked to sled between our house and Morris’, down past the Hoods’ house. We started up at the top of the hill between the Randall and Morris houses, then swooped down to the left into the ravine. If your sled was really good and the conditions right, you could even end up in the frozen stream. (I only managed that once). My worst childhood memory was of the time my big brother Lew smacked into a tree sledding, and was brought into the Hoods’ house unconscious. I thought he was dead, as he lay there completely still.” (Allison)

For a few years, parents tried building an ice skating rink in the park, with boards and plastic sheeting. When we were lucky and it froze solid, it was great with everyone gathering either to skate or watch. Dr. Prebus, being a Canadian, was very good at ice dancing.

- Whenever there was a big snow, dads would come out to push cars up the hill.
- John Seidel would build huge ice sculptures in his front yard, with artistically arranged objects at the base, and a garden hose set to a fine mist going up to the top.
- “Christmas decorations; everybody decorated every year and the village looked great.” (Mike)

## Projects and Events

Someone was always having some sort of project going on in the Village and everyone had to go and investigate

- The Sayerses bought the Devers property in 1959 and had a shack-burning party to celebrate the demise of an unsightly tar-paper shack next to their home.
- The Prebuses built a patio themselves with a fish pond in it.
- "Mr. Hood made silicon chips in the oven (one of the first ever)." (Chuck)
- The Hoods added onto their house.
- "Mrs. Hood decided it was time for the Village kids to learn tennis so she started lessons for us. I remember getting a white tennis skirt, a tennis racquet and a can of balls. We gathered on her driveway trying to bounce the ball on our racquet. Most of us spent most of our time chasing after our errant tennis balls. She also took us to the courts at Jones Junior High to practice. Years later, the Hoods, Garvins, Henneys, and others were instrumental in starting the Swim and Racquet Club." (Dotty)
- "Ben Blinn had a produce farm and flew big kites as a hobby. One landed near the Village park, and it gave away trinkets for 'finding' it." (Chuck)
- "Mr. Ray built a fence very near the Michaels' property (fences were not allowed) and this may still be an open item on the Canterbury Village home owners' agenda." (Chuck)
- "Mr. Ray built his patio garden fence a foot into the Michael's side yard." (Lisal)
- "Work parties were held to maintain the parks. Kids were even pressed into service trimming bushes, pulling weeds, and planting flowers during work parties." (Marti)

## Dogs

Many families had one or more dogs. Back then, the dogs explored the neighborhoods with the kids and everyone got to know each families' dogs. Because we lived close to the River Road, more than one dog was killed when they left the Village.

- McGuires had Blackie, Freddie and then Napoleon.
- Rays had a collie named Blaze.
- Seidels had a collie, a boxer, and then a dramatic Russian Wolf Hound named Mo.
  - "As kids we used to wander all over the neighborhood and so did the dogs except for Mo the Seidels' Russian Wolfhound who was chained in their front yard. One time he got free and kids ran around screaming Mo's loose!" (Jennifer)
- Henneys had Wiggles, a mutt, who loved to chase cars, which eventually lead to his demise. Wiggles was followed by Buttons, a beagle and trash-day connoisseur, and Thor, a Norwegian Elkhound , who found the Henneys one day.
- Gail and Mimi Williams went to the University School Fair with the Randalls, and kept bidding on a puppy until they won it. They brought the puppy home, much to the dismay of their mother. The parents tried to take it back to the pound that evening, but it was closed and Becky, a goofy, excitable mixed breed, became part of the Williams family.
- Hoods had boxers.
- Randalls had Charkie, a Cocker Spaniel.

- Sayerses had Hans, a German shepherd, followed by a series of black Labrador retrievers.
  - “Hans, the Sayerses’ German shepherd, would chase my dad’s Volkswagen Beetle up the hill to our house at 2850-2.” (Jennifer)
- Michaels had Lady, a mix they found, followed by Snoopy, a Schnauzer.
- Walls had a Weimaraner.
- Garvins had Motsy (a long-haired dachshund), Smokey (a mutt), Ebony and King, (black labs), Patch (a mutt), Lassie (a collie that Joy found), and of course Charlie’s famous Dalmatian show dogs starting with Corky and then Rocky, which they got to replace Dotty when she got married in 1965. (Dotty—Don’t ask me how it feels to be replaced by a dog).
- “The Zentners had two big Basset Hounds that were like their children. Barbara loved Halloween. She always made a fantastic Halloween dinner for the kids and really got into the spirit of the occasion. She made her doggies gourmet meals. She wheeled her dogs around on sleds with wheels because their back legs gave out.” (Leslie)
- “The Rays had a big dog who always chased my Mom’s little Morris Minor, barking loudly at the driver’s window. The car was so little and the dog so big that the dog seemed bigger than the car. Mom used to yell at him out the window, ‘Go home! Go home!’ to which he paid no attention. Finally she started packing a loaded squirt gun, and I think got a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction from rolling down her window and ‘shooting’ him in the face. I don’t remember whether this cured him of chasing the car, but I do remember that it did deter him in the moment.” (Allison)

Dog fights occurred with everyone shouting and parents spraying the dogs with garden hoses and swinging brooms to break up the fights.

## Teenagers

When we became teenagers, we started getting interested in the opposite sex. We held rock and roll dances at each other homes, including ones in McGuires’ garage, Garvins’ basement, and Williamses’ back porch. Terry McGuire had a red 1951 Ford convertible, Joy drove a Corvair, and most of the rest of us just borrowed our parents’ cars when we could.



**Peggy Brown, Mimi Williams, Judy Hood, Dotty Garvin, and Gail Williams at a Village Picnic**

At some point, every boy fell in love with Joy. The girls pined over Terry, Chuck, or Dan.

- “One of my earliest memories was having a crush on Chuck Durant! I remember the Cheerful Earful practicing at the Bleaks’ home. Playing in the forsythia bushes until Mr. Michael came out and yelled at us. My brother beating up Todd Morris for breaking Diane Michael’s new necklace. The big sycamore tree that fell in the ravine. Holiday picnics and the big slide. Caroling and Trick or Treat and then a party after at the Garvins. Mrs. Bleak had an Equal Housing Opportunity sign in her kitchen window.” (Lisal)
- “If we were really lucky Bill Browne Jr. or Terry Maguire would drive us ‘all the way’ out to the country to Gables Dairy (Godown and Kenny Roads) for ice cream cones on summer nights. The cows were right there in the field behind the ice cream farm stand.” (Marti)
- “Few remember the 22 rifle range in the crawl-space that Terry and Mike built to shoot their guns. The all night poker games became pretty famous.” (Mike)
- “We used to have square dances. I remember one at the Bleaks’ or Maguires’ carport and maybe one at Michael’s.” (Marti)
- “The Randall boys and my brother Pete used to have jam sessions in our front yard when they were all playing instruments which was fun. They got pretty good too.” (Robin)
- “I remember my brother’s band played at the Sayerses and everybody got busted for drinking. Elaine was having Tina Henney overnight and the police almost carted them away too except Mr. Ray wouldn’t let them.” (Jennifer)

## Other Memories

- “I remember finding various charred items that had been blown up with fire crackers by Andy Seidel. In the summer the lazy sound of the propeller planes. Sonic booms, I guess from Wright Patterson. Some cold fall mornings there would be the smell of the paper mill in Chillicothe. Tommy and Sherman Randall selling candy. Danny Sayers coming back from the war, injured. Our house was originally the Kepleys’. I think the carpenter who worked on it came back and refinished our basement. His kid released the brake on his truck and it rolled out of our driveway and crashed into the bushes by the Rays.” (Jennifer)
- Playing Canasta and War all one summer as well as Monopoly games that went on for hours (land on free parking and you get the pile of money and took over Park Place and Boardwalk).
- “I recall spending endless summer hours playing Canasta with Scott Henney. I haven’t played Canasta since, and today I can’t even recall how the game works, except that two decks were needed.” (Lew)
- “The girls liked playing dress up and also putting on plays and charging admission. When we put on Little Women, there was a big battle over who would play Meg and I don’t know if Marti or Allison won.” (Dotty)
  - “I’d forgotten about our production of ‘Little Women’. I was SO scared I wouldn’t remember my lines! (Who the heck came to be our audience, anyway?)” (Allison)
- Pumping water out of the Sayerses’ well. (Chuck)
- “Mr. Durrant would bring us fabric samples, and we would make doll clothes and other stuff out of them.” (Gail)
- “Jimmy Browne and I shared a paper route for several years, delivering the Columbus Citizen by bicycle to homes in an area bounded by Charing Rd, Lane Ave, Asbury Dr, and Zollinger Rd (I think). In the worst winter weather our parents would give us a lift in a car, but I remember getting awfully wet in the rain, and cold in Winter, on my bike.” (Lew)
- “David Michael was the paper boy and he also put on magic shows.” (Lisal)

- "Falling asleep listening to violin and flute music from the Prebus kids practicing during the summer when everyone's windows were open." (Debbie)
- "Throwing snow balls at the school bus." (Chuck)
- "Sling shots one summer." (Chuck)
- "Riding bikes all the way to Tremont Center." (Chuck)
- "Susie Hood and Doug Michael were engaged in first grade or kindergarten." (Lisal)
- "Lots of sleepovers." (Marti)
- "Our mother was a wonderful homemaker, but was not a seamstress. I remember Mrs. Kepley sewing me some costumes for 'the Music Man' production at UAHS when I played Zaneeta Shin. Mom traded Mrs. Kepley carpool duty, since Mrs. Kepley did not drive." (Marti)
- "Ballroom dance lessons in 5th & 6th grade at Tremont School. No one liked them except the moms!" (Mike)
- "We used to go to the pool in the summer en masse almost every afternoon. There were car pools for morning swimming lessons. As we progressed we earned plastic badges sponsored by WTVN: Pollywog, dolphin, shark, and whale." (Marti)
- "We swam at Barrington Pool before Tremont Pool opened. At Barrington I remember the gushing water jets and the tall lights on poles that had 'rainbows' around them after hours of swimming underwater." (Marti)
- "Danny Sayers, U. S. Marine, and Mike McGuire, U.S. Navy, both served in Vietnam." (Mike)
- "I remember the small juice cans at the Sayerses stored under the sink for all of us to get our drinks of water. I always thought that was such a clever idea." (Diane)
- "I remember playing in the Hood's crawl space. We found the best modeling mud and had big plans for selling the little dog statutes we made." (Diane)



**Front Row: Joy Seidel, Carol Troutwine, Sally Hood, Nancy Ray, ?; Row 2: Gail Williams, Allison Randall, Judy Hood, Mimi Williams, ?; Top Row: ?, ?, Diane Michael?, Peggy Browne?, Dotty Garvin, ?**

## Really Caring Neighbors

- “On Labor Day, 1961, Dad (Mac Henney) contracted polio and was not expected to live. On Christmas Eve, 1961 the hospital arranged for Dad to be transported home for about a 15 hour visit (which I’m certain Dr. Garvin and Dr. Sayers probably helped arrange). Once he was settled, we heard singing coming from below his bedroom window. It was our wonderful neighbors who made a special trip out to serenade us. I remember that Tina and I sat on Dad’s bed and watched the singing outside on the hillside behind our home. Everyone had their candles lit, sleigh bells ringing and sang their hearts out. It was Christmas Eve and our friends took time out of their own celebrations to honor my Dad, and bring a little comfort to our family.” (Debbie)
- “One other thing that I have never figured out. When Dad got sick, he was in the hospital for a year and didn’t return to his law practice for another six months after that. Early on, someone (I believe from the village) brought us a wooden tree with 15 little monkeys hanging from it. Each monkey held an envelope and each envelope had money folded inside it. No matter when we needed it, Mom would open one of the envelopes and there would be money inside. The envelopes seemed to ‘re-fill’ themselves, just when we needed it!” (Debbie)
- “Barbara Zentner always dropped by our house with goodies for the kids from The Goody Shop. She specially loved my younger brother, Jim. She babied him endlessly, and he loved it. Barbara was quite a character generally wearing sweatpants, a big plaid flannel shirt with bright red lipstick, and her gray hair pulled back in a ponytail. She smoked a lot and had a brusque voice. We were quite fond of Barbara and Manny. They were caring neighbors and were so kind to us kids. They always made us laugh.” (Leslie)
- “I will always remember the love and sincere sorrow from the Village women when my mother was killed. I remember the 15 yellow roses we received the morning after the accident and the beautiful red maple planted in her memory by these wonderful Canterbury neighbors.” (Diane)

## In Memoriam

In June, 2010, when this history was prepared, most of the Village founders are only with us in our hearts. Fortunately, Pete and Marjorie Sayers, Dick Michael, John Seidel, Chuck Hood, Nathalie Durrant, Marge Haldi, Clarence and Mary Cole, and Julia Wall are still with us. A few of the “Kids” have passed on also:

- John Prebus
- Todd Morris
- Carol Troutwine

## The Village Today

Today the Village has majestic trees and many remodeled homes. The Kids who grew up in the 50s and 60s in the Village are now in their 50s and 60s and have kids and grandkids of their own. The Durrant home is now two stories, and other homes have undergone dramatic renovations.

Three founders currently live in their original homes: Pete and Marjorie Sayers and Dick Michael. Bev Davis remembers that when their daughter was growing up in the Village in the 80s, often there were no other kids in the Village.

- “Because of the massive renovations that we undertook when we moved in, we lived in the basement from July until Thanksgiving. That was quite a feat with Craig and I both having full-time positions at OSU and a middle school student at home. But many of the neighbors took Shannon under their wings (Helen Prebus and Nathalie Durrant especially) and gave her afternoon treats, soup when she was home from school ill, etc. She also loved playing the Prebuses’ baby grand piano.” (Bev)
- “More than once, Pete Sayers was called into service to treat our grandchildren. I remember one New Years’ Eve when Skyler had a terrible sore throat and I took him over to the Sayerses’. Pete was in his tux and Marjorie in a lovely gown, but he took the time to take a look and prescribe penicillin.” (Bev)

Lot Number	Current Number	Residents	Occupation	Kids
1	2859	Martin Peter (Pete) and Marjorie Sayers	Neurosurgeon	Daniel (Dan), Steven (Steve), Julia, and Elaine
2	2857	Michael Thomas and Ginny Richardson	Attorney. Professor, OSU in social work and African American and African Studies.	Nicole Richardson Thomas (Nikki) Math Graduate Student and GTA, OSU
3	2855	Howard Simpson		
4	2853	Jeff and Deanna DeVettori		
5	2851	Janet French		
6	2849	George Richard (Dick) Michael	Insurance Agent & Agency Owner	David, Diane, and Douglas (Doug)
7	2847	John Gabel		
8	2845	Eric and Lynda Wesolek		
9	2843	Paul Skendelas and Kate Federle	Attorney. Law Professor at OSU.	John and Katie Skendelas and John Paul Haynes.
10	2841	Theresa (Terri) Huston	Chemist, Chemical Abstracts	
11	2840	Greg Caldeira	Professor at OSU	
12	2839	Craig and Bev Davis	Professor of Natural Resources at OSU. Licensed clinical counselor in private practice.	Lisa Stoklosa (Bob ), Lori Pierick (Steve), Laurie Gubanyar (Dave), Ben Munson (Shelly), and Shannon de Jong
13	2837	Tom and Luciana Ramsey		
14	2835	Norman and Vicki Powell	Chemical Engineer & Systems Analyst. CPA/Account Manager.	Michael Mitiska (14), Addie Mitiska (10) and Summer Powell (6).
15	2833	Henk and Irene Verwij	Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, OSU. Free lance photographer and volunteer.	
16	2831	Jim and Elizabeth Cirolì		

## History of the Village History and Reunion

On July 4, 2010 a reunion will be held with many of the Kids who grew up in the Village attending along with some of their founding parents, the Kid's kids and grandkids, and current Village residents. The idea for this reunion originated when Chuck Durrant and Dotty Tonjes discussed the idea during visiting hours when Mr. Durrant died over the holidays in 2008. In March 2009, Chuck, Dotty, and others began a campaign to connect all the Village Kids by e-mail. Sort of like how people were brought into the Village, they began to track down former Kids through their connections. Once they connected to one sibling, they were usually able to connect to the entire family. And some people were found through searching the Internet and old-fashioned phone calls.

Chuck began a list and kept adding to it. Within a few weeks, with lots of help from many Kids doing detective work, we had most of the Kids on the list along with addresses and e-mails. And Kids kept expressing an idea of having a reunion. In June 2009, Chuck floated the idea of a reunion over the Fourth of July, 2010 and it won instant approval, since we were now all connected by e-mail. Mike McGuire pointed out that it was the 45th class reunion for himself, Danny Sayers, Nancy Ray, and Peggy Browne and the ball got rolling. Lisal proposed that a committee be formed. On July 4, 2009 Chuck sent out an e-mail to everyone saying "364 days to the Reunion and counting" asking everyone to mark their calendars and save their pennies for air fare.

The Reunion Committee was formed with Chuck, Lisal, Debbie, Diane, Dotty, and Elaine plus Dick Michael and eventually Bev Davis from the Village. Paul Skendelas was very helpful in interfacing between the current Villagers and the Kids.

This Village History was actually started over a year ago when Dotty was visiting Gail in Ft. Worth and we began to discuss how the people in the Village came together. We wrote down what we knew and then Dotty called her Aunt Marjorie for more details. As Chuck compiled his list of Village Kids, he also started a Village history. At some point years earlier, Mrs. Durrant wrote another Village history but it seems to have been lost. Dotty pulled together whatever she could put her hands on and edited the History into its current form. Many Kids as well as her Aunt Marjorie and Uncle Pete, Mr. Michael, and Mrs. Durrant provided wonderful detail and clarification on the History.

Planning the reunion has been an adventure. The Reunion Committee literally exchanged hundreds of e-mails to make it happen. At this point, we are holding our breath and working our tails off to bring it all together.

DGT



**Reunion Planning Committee: Diane, Mr. Michael, Elaine, Lisal, Debbie.  
Not shown: Chuck and Dotty**