

Labor Day Garage Sale

September 2003

By Carol C. Cole

With Labor Day festivities recently over, perhaps it's time for a little historical review. According to a short article in the August 1985 issue of Village Views, the St. Thomas Laymen's League is responsible for starting our Labor Day festivities "in World War II days when gasoline rationing kept people at home on holidays". By 1974 it was noticed there were plenty of activities for young people but not much for adults. Thus it was that in 1974 Ann and Jim Gilchrist along with Edna and Pete Stites decided to run a garage sale on Labor Day on the Village Green. Those two couples along with help from their friends ran the sale until 1985. Items were collected in the Gilchrist's garages and out-building and priced by Ann as they came in. Anyone making a donation could browse through the collection and buy anything that had been priced. On the Sunday evening before Labor Day several of us loaded everything into our vans and station wagons ready to unload on the Green in the morning. After the parade the sale began. By about 2 or 3 o'clock prices were cut in half and then by 4 we started packing up to take the remains to the Nearly New Shop in Newtown. Proceeds were to go to the Recreation Commission as they still do today. In the early days the community's donations paid for the children's athletic uniforms and equipment. Now there are further expenses such as field maintenance, referees and league fees.

Jack and Barbara Smith took it over from the Gilchrists followed by Jim and Sue Porter. Others who ran the sale are Denise Hall, the Moyers, Grace Holmes, Larry Williams, John & Beth Srofe, Mickey Forbes & Pat McGraw, Wally & Judy Heffner, and this year Robin Pendery. (When we have a complete index of Village Views we will be able to look up past Garage Sale articles easily rather than relying on people's memories for names.) At one time items were collected in the Tornado Room underneath Terrace Park School's gymnasium. Another year they were collected in the barn on what is now Orchard Hill Lane. I understand that this year one must work two hours in order to be able to buy ahead instead of just making a donation and being able to buy. The "Labor Day Garage Sale" has always been a winner!

You no doubt know by now that the Terrace Park Historical Society has a new home in two wonderful rooms on the middle floor of the old education building at St. Thomas Church. We hope to have an Open House when we're a little more organized. The move would not have been possible without the experienced moving assistance of Lee Cole, Jim Gilchrist, Roger Stafford and Stan Brown. The Garage Sale and many other individuals have made valuable contributions to our new quarters. We have also been able to get a very good deal on a 10 drawer map case following a lead by Mary Annett. However we continue to have needs, some of which are equipment and some information.

Seeking:

Family Histories/Genealogies

Information on Houses

School Mementos: Yearbooks, Programs, Photos, etc.

Graduation programs and class lists

Written and Oral Histories

Club/Organization information

Photos

Correspondence

Wedding Invitations

Birth Announcements

Obituaries

Local Business Advertising Pieces

Maps

Telephone Books (1969-1974, 1999 to present)

Village Views

Newspaper Clippings of Terrace Park and its Citizens

(Someone to clip articles from the Post)

Real Estate information

Terrace Park Objects

We could still use more file cabinets (especially lateral ones), desks or tables and chairs
as well as a vacuum cleaner and public address system.

*Please remember us when you clean out the attic, basement, move
or breakup housekeeping*