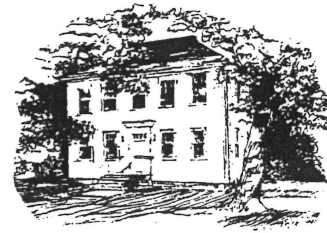


IMAGES

. . . then and now

From The Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

The Story of the Bird Sanctuary

In November 1959, the Indian Hill Garden club proposed planting a garden on the northeast corner of Drake and Shawnee Run Roads. Previously the Garden Club had assisted the village with plantings at the southeast corner of the same intersection, and collaborated with Village Manager Warren Parks on other civic projects since 1949.

After a study to determine if it was a feasible project and if the land was available from the Village, the members of the club approved the establishment of a Bird Sanctuary. They dedicated funds "not to exceed \$1000", which included a memorial planting for Mrs. George Eustis, a longtime member of the club. In the spring the existing trees on the land were platted, and Helen Black's committee developed a proposal for new plantings. Village Council approved the plan in May 1960, and agreed that the Village would grade the land and mow the grass at the site.

By September, the Village had installed steps and staked out paths. Some plants had been removed and others pruned. Eleanor Christie developed an elaborate plan featuring optimum cover and food sources for native birds. Specimens of Washington Thorn, Oriental Spruce, River Birch, and Laurel Oak were planted, and bird feeders were installed.

Replenishing the bird feeders at the Sanctuary was done by "loyal and faithful" volunteers from the Garden Club, with the club purchasing the birdseed. Plantings were added using some shrubs acquired from the Village nursery and planted by the Service Department. Cuttings of Euonymus were grown and planted by members of the Garden Club, and seedlings of unique trees (e.g. Grey Dogwood) were donated by Dorothy Rowe. A four-

outlet water line, paid for by the Club, was installed by the Village; and White Pines, Pyramidal Oaks, Tartan Honey-suckle, Bayberry, Witch Hazel, and Redbud were planted. Two benches were placed in the Sanctuary in 1963, and a birdbath was added in 1965. Garden Club minutes document continued plantings and biweekly filling of birdfeeders throughout the 1960's.

In the 1970's the Bird Sanctuary was enhanced by the addition of a fountain. Members of the Indian Hill Artists attended Marjorie Applegate's sculpture exhibit at Closson's and admired her "North Wind". A fellow artist thought that "North Wind" could be converted to a fountain, and friends of the village (citizens, women's clubs, garden clubs) contributed funds to convert the sculpture into a fountain. Tyler Emerson, Ede Schmidt, and Lela Steele were instrumental in this effort. The 20" by 30" limestone head was purchased and presented to the Village of Indian Hill. Otto Bauer-Nilsen and Bob Steffen designed the fountain incorporating Mrs. Applegate's sculpture. Stones from an old foundation on Green Areas land were used for the base and mounting for the head. The cost of transforming and installing the fountain was \$2500, all of which was donated. In 1972 the fountain was unveiled to the public by Mayor William Kite. There was music by the School Brass Ensemble, and Rev. Luther Tucker gave a blessing. After the ceremony, refreshments were served in Village Council chambers, with punch served from the historic World War II "Carrier Pigeon" bowl.

Over the decades, the Bird Sanctuary has been an asset to the Village. Now maintained by the Service Department, the plantings have matured, and the fountain continues to flow every summer. Memorial plaques honor past village residents in this place of quiet repose. Residents have appreciated its beauty and solace for more than forty years.

