

IMAGES

... then and now

From The Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

Indian Hill Shooting Ranges, Part II...courtesy of Tom Kanis & Clarence Smith

The two Indian Hill Shooting Ranges on Route 126 are adjacent, with the civilian range on a lower level, (called "the pit"), where at one time the Pennsylvania Railroad quarried gravel for their railroad beds. The upper range (discussed in last month's *Images*) is used exclusively by law enforcement groups and is known as the police range. Before the range was acquired by the Village in 1958, it was named Camp Ross by members of the National Guard who practiced there. Some say that locally made cannons were proof fired there, deliberately overloaded to ensure they would not explode. Now x-rays of cannons make this process unnecessary.

The Junior Rifle Club used the civilian range during the years 1962-1983. As many as 100 Village youths (ages of 12-18) trained, practiced, and competed each year under the watchful eye of Clarence Smith. Three evenings per week Smith worked with the students, and he accompanied them to competitions in Ohio and nearby states.

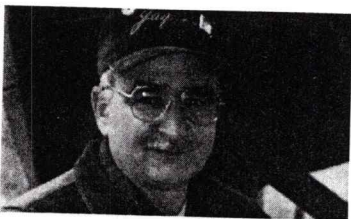
After one Ohio competition where the Indian Hill Junior Rifle Club placed second, Smith relates he challenged the youths with "second place is the first loser." This inspired them to win first place trophies in the state for all three positions: indoor, outdoor standing, and outdoor prone, for five straight years. The redjacketed Juniors also competed in national matches at Camp Perry, near Lake Erie.



R R R

The Junior Rifle Club no longer exists, but the lower range is now used by the Indian Hill Gun Club. Most of the Club's 240 members are from the east side of Cincinnati. Membership entitles a family to use the range on weekends, and participate in the Tuesday/Thursday evening shotgun shoot.

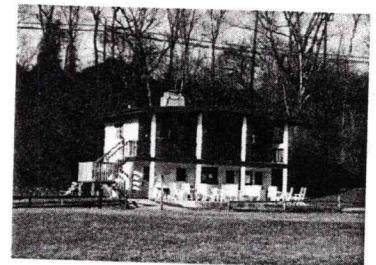
Today's Lower Range Supervisor, Tom Kanis, is avid on the subject of safety. He or his assistant, Don Thompson, is on site whenever the range is open. All youths must be accompanied by a parent; gun safety is enforced, earplugs and eye protection are worn, and buzzers and flashing lights signal cease-fire conditions. Informal instruction is offered by Kanis, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army.



There are two areas at the lower range whose facilities are mutually exclusive. The stationery targets are for pistol and rifle use, and they offer the opportunity to practice at distances between 25 feet and 100 yards. The more popular shotgun facility has moving targets and includes skeet, trap, and sporting clays.

According to the accomplished marksmen (and women) who belong to the Indian Hill

Gun Club, "shooting is a perishable skill" that takes many hours of practice. Though some members use the range to hone their hunting marksmanship, many just shoot for pleasure. The upcoming Interclub Meet on March 15 is open to spectators who wish to watch skeet competition.



Registration forms for the Indian Hill Gun Club are at the Village Administration Office