

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Indian Hill's Bicentennial Sculpture

In 1995 Indian Hill Village celebrated its Bicentennial. Many activities marked this significant anniversary including an extravagant Fourth of July parade, and the adoption of a village flag. Village Council commissioned a monument depicting scenes of Indian Hill's history.

Karen Heyl was selected to create this work of art. Educated at U.C., the Visual Arts Institute, the Art Academy of Cincinnati, and an Italian school, Karen has exhibited, judged, and taught both watercolor and sculpture. Once she began specializing in carving, Karen did many large scale public works for churches, corporations, park facilities, cemeteries, and hospitals - and one at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. Her bas relief artistry brought her both local and national awards.

After discussions with members of Council, the Historical Society, the City Manager, and other Village officials, Heyl devised a plan for carving images into three separate limestone panels, each representing a particular era. The Little Miami River - present on all panels - led viewers through history, and provided the reason why this area was settled in advance of other greater Cincinnati communities. Also each panel included vegetation and wildlife, indicative of Indian Hill's rich natural beauty and its Green Areas.

John Bentley, Village consultant, sited the sculpture at the southwest corner of Stephan Field at Drake and Shawnee Run Roads. He designed the area to encourage visitors to guide themselves while interpreting the art. A safety zone was established to insure that stone dust and chips were confined.



Bicentennial Sculpture Panels

In March the artist and a few residents watched as Stone Center workmen installed the massive stones selected by Karen. For seven months, Heyl's temporary studio was Stephan Field. Using a pneumatic hammer and chisel, she etched history into the panels. Spectators who watched her progress asked her questions during her breaks. They witnessed her at work, dressed for the weather - in shorts and using an umbrella on hot sunny days, and wearing layers of warmer clothing and boots in cooler months - and always wearing protective eye gear, a visor, and gloves.

The first panel, 6 feet tall, 4 feet wide and 10 inches thick, represents the years of early settlement. One side features a Native American beside the river. Curving around to the other side, a bearded pioneer and his wife in a bonnet show the arrival of the settlers. A plough represents the impact of agriculture; and a rustic barn and the 1831 Armstrong Chapel are depicted. The second panel, 7 feet tall, presents the period from the Civil War through the 1941 incorporation of Indian Hill. A Union Army bugler is there, along with the Little Red Schoolhouse, a mill, and a river vessel. The opposite side of the panel contains images of estates built in the 1920s and 30s, their silos and barns; and it features a griffin crest from Alberly Manor. The Administration Building and Village seal are also easily discernible. The 8 foot tall third panel reflects everyday life, with the front having scenes of the Camargo Hunt and Blome Road Bridge; and the back showing a Ranger, Fireman, the Indian Hill school logo, and children with sports equipment. The edges of the slabs are also used to portray history - etched with railroad tracks, the Camargo Hunt logo, and a bluebird house.

The three slabs, vertically placed at visually interesting angles and subtly uplighted for night viewing, continue to attract onlookers. Ms. Heyl was honored as a Post-Corbett finalist in 1995 for her historically interpretive artwork. When the sculpture was complete, residents had the opportunity to purchase engraved paver stones around its perimeter.

Now twenty years old, the Bicentennial Sculpture is a treasured landmark. Reminding residents of Village history, it testifies to the passage of time in a unique community - Indian Hill.



Pioneer Era