

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

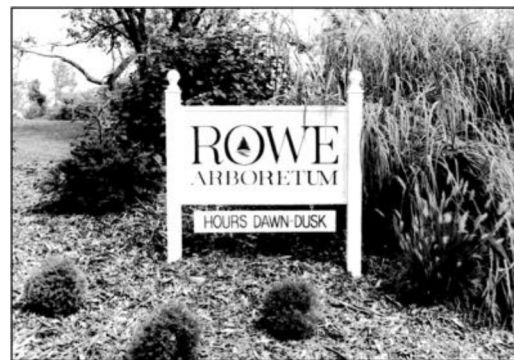
From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Remembering Stanley Rowe – An Icon of Indian Hill, Part II

Stanley and Dorothy Rowe collected evergreens, shrubs, and trees and acquired rare varieties of each. They experimented to see what would thrive in the southern Ohio climate and kept careful records of each planting. The couple accumulated almost 5000 diverse types of cultivars. Conifers and crabapples were two of their favorites. Their gardener created stone bridges, walking trails, and “sitting spots” for restful interludes. Mrs. Rowe knew the Latin genus and specie names of all the plantings. Stanley regularly exercised by clearing brush and honeysuckle from the property. The Rowes wanted to make their plantings look as if they were naturally occurring, so they did not plant in rows. Instead, various families of trees and shrubs were grouped together. In 1981, Stanley gave several acres to Indian Hill, and the couple left the Rowe Arboretum to the Village when they died. Their residence (Annesdale) was sold to provide an endowment for the collection’s upkeep. Currently about 9 acres and with 800 different species, this gem of a park features walking trails and is open to the public during daylight hours.



Besides bequeathing the Arboretum to the community, Stanley Rowe was instrumental in the creation of the Cincinnati Nature Center. When owners (Carl & Mary Krippendorf) of the property in Perintown died in 1964, Rowe, their daughter Roseanne Krippendorf, and 11 others sought to preserve the then 165-acre parcel. It was composed of wooded hillsides and green vistas, interspersed with thousands of European and Asian bulbs, flowering trees, and decorative blooms. The first supporters signed the articles of incorporation in 1965. It opened to the public in 1967. The mission of the CNC was and is to “provide the greater Cincinnati community, especially young people, the opportunity to experience and study the natural environment, and to encourage responsible stewardship of

natural resources.” The Nature Center now is composed of about 1600 acres. Rowe was a major benefactor, providing (with his sisters) the Rowe Interpretive Building (named for his parents). Later he was instrumental in endowing Rowe Woods, and the All-Persons Trail at the original site. He remained in the forefront for the development of the CNC throughout his lifetime.

This august man received recognition for all his accomplishments. Stanley Rowe was honored as a lifetime member of the Cincinnati Association. The Ohio DNR presented him with a Conservation Achievement Award, and the American Horticultural Society gave him a prestigious citation honoring him as “an individual not professionally engaged in horticulture, whose contributions to gardening have been significant.” The Better Housing League venerated him for 50 years of service as a Board member. And the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce declared him a “Great Living Cincinnati” on his 82nd birthday.

Stanley Rowe died at age 97 in 1987. Involved with numerous governmental and civic committees in Indian Hill and Cincinnati, he was a valued leader. He was committed to community causes and was a visionary as well as a philanthropist. His twin legacies of founding the Cincinnati Nature Center and creating the Rowe Arboretum have provided legions of people opportunities to experience natural havens.

