

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Remembering Edna Marie “Ede” Schmidt

Edna Marie “Ede” Schmidt was an Indian Hill resident from 1958-1999. An avid painter, she depicted scenes of the Village, its inhabitants, traditions, wildlife, and landscapes in many of her works. Her enthusiasm for art and the community spilled over to other residents and led to many inspired cooperative endeavors.

Ede’s father enrolled her in Saturday art classes at the Cincinnati Art Academy when she was 9 years old. She was not allowed to spend Friday nights with friends because she had to attend school the next morning. Over the years, she studied with many influential instructors (including Herman Wessel, Sam Stavitz, George Post, and Carl Zimmerman) and travelled throughout the states and internationally to attend classes. She said, “Every teacher I went to, I learned something I didn’t know.”

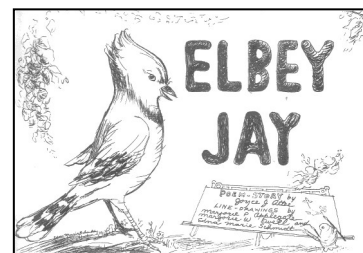
Moving to Indian Hill in 1958, she and her husband Bill lived at 5650 Drake Road, where they raised three sons: Bill, Jr., Steve, and Tom. A devoted mother, she recalled going in and out of her driveway 27 times in one day – “back, forth, back and forth” to school, activities, shopping, sports, and more.

One of Ede’s interests was astrology. She was enthusiastic about this pursuit, and according to one friend, could usually tell under which sign a person was born and liked to discuss the aspects surrounding the time of one’s birth. Once she did a 3-page astrological study for her nephew’s birthday with illustrations and her interpretation of the planets’ alignment and their meaning for his future.



Ede’s true passion was art. She always had her sketchbook at hand and painted beautifully with a distinctive flair. Among the places she exhibited were the Cincinnati Women’s Art Club, Town Club, Harriet Crane Gallery in Kenwood, Summit Showcase of Art, the San Francisco Hotel, and Shield’s Crossing in Loveland. She usually painted at least a few days a week at home in her Fox Brush Studio, but when she attended workshops, Ede painted daily. Her favorite subject was horses and the Hunt. She mastered multiple mediums – including pen and ink, watercolors and oils. Besides still life, she excelled at portraiture and landscapes.

Involved in the community, Ede made many contributions. She was a longtime member of the Camargo Hunt, and she often drew or sketched exciting or humorous incidents that occurred in the field. While serving on the Green Areas Advisory Committee from 1977-1992, she helped preserve the unique spaces that still define the Village’s rural atmosphere. Ede was a charter member of the group called Indian Hill Artists. Gifted men and women (all residents) held art shows annually in the autumn from 1958- 1976. Planning sessions were held during dinner parties in members’ homes and included spouses. Gaiety and friendship underlaid their group efforts. The Art Show was first at the Little Red Schoolhouse, then Cincinnati Country Day School and later, Livingston Lodge. It was very popular and attracted crowds, many of whom purchased the art. The Indian Hill Artists enriched the Village by creating camaraderie, celebrating local talent, and supporting culture in the neighborhood for decades. Another group project was the book, Elbey Jay, which was Ede’s idea. A little blue jay became a Schmidt family pet after they nursed him to health from a broken leg. Four women members of the Indian Hill Artists collaborated to write, illustrate, print, publicize, and sell the 40-page poetry book documenting the bird’s adventures. The volume was available in 1964; all proceeds from sales were donated to the Green Areas Fund. Additionally Ede and other residents collectively raised the funds to procure and install *North Wind* (Margorie Applegate’s sculpture) at the Bird Sanctuary.



Ede died in 1999 at the age of 87. During her funeral at Indian Hill Church there were several tributes. She was praised for being a friend not only to humans but to the plant and animal kingdom. Her joie de vivre, adaptability, attitude, creativity, enthusiasm, and contagious spirit were remembered. Ede Schmidt was one of a kind and had a positive impact in Indian Hill.