

THE HILTONE

AUGUST 15, 1980★

★ VOLUME 2 NO. 3

HILTONIA ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

From the President

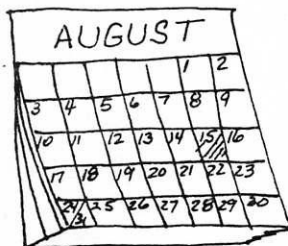
BOB TOPPER

The City is currently developing a "Recovery Action Program" for the revitalization of Trenton's parks and recreational facilities. This program is a requirement to secure Federal funding under the "Urban Park and Recreation Recover (UPARR) Act" which, at this time, appears to be the only viable source of funding for restoration of Cadwalader Park. Citizen participation is a requirement of the act and the city is seeking individuals who are willing to participate in development of the application as well as implementation of activities supported through the grant. Should you be interested, please contact Ken Kyte or myself for additional information.

The maintenance and restoration of Cadwalader Park has long been a concern of ours. While the need to improve conditions is clear, the Association has yet to take a formal position. Therefore, an assessment of basic issues such as the types of improvements to be made, priorities for restoration, and park ownership is being undertaken by the committee. Recommendations will be presented in the fall to the general membership with a view towards adopting a unified Hiltonia position.

Our third annual Block Party is only a few short weeks away. New activities are planned that are certain to add to our enjoyment. This event is a unique opportunity to meet new neighbors, renew old acquaintances, and have a good time. Also, our program committee is looking into the possibility of holding a golf outing and dinner for Association members to be held in late September or early October. We'll keep you informed as plans develop.

CALENDAR



- AUGUST 1 - 1980 Membership drive begins
- AUGUST 15 - Hilltone
- AUGUST 31 - Poster Contest Deadline
- SEPTEMBER 6 - Block Party
- SEPTEMBER 16* - General Meeting
- OCTOBER * - Golf Outing
- OCTOBER 1 - Deadline for Hilltone articles

* TENTATIVE

FRIENDS OF *Cadwalader* PARK

The Friends of Cadwalader Park held a "Project Halfday: Giving a Hand to the Park Crew" on Saturday, July 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Projects worked on were ridding ponds of debris, clearing walks of weeds, straightening stone curbs, pruning forsythia bushes, and cleaning play grounds.

However, on the early evening of July 22nd, a violent thunderstorm hit the Trenton area. It was during this storm that 10 trees and numerous limbs, many of which were large, were blown down. As a result, "Project Halfday" became a clean up job that turned out some 20 people.

Part of the team went ahead as planned with the pruning of the forsythia and Stuyvesant Avenue around the Babe Ruth field gives a vignette of what pruning, air, and light can do.

"Project Halfday" will be scheduled 2 or 3 times a year and appar to be a way to keep and to help restore some of the beauty and charm in Cadwalader Park and to help increase community involvement. Thanks to all who came.

CADWALADER PARK

SENIOR CITIZEN'S COTTAGE

The first steps towards improving the Senior Citizen's Cottage in Cadwalader Park were recently taken by Officers of the Hiltonia Association. Last year our Association applied for, and received, a grant totaling \$6600.00 to

USE OF CADWALADER PARK PETITION TO MAYOR HOLLAND

The residents of Hiltonia are being asked to sign a petition regarding the conditions in Cadwalader Park. Please take the time to read this petition and sign it. Keep in mind that the park is part of our neighborhood.

The petition offers suggestions to improve Cadwalader Park. The suggestions are based on the noise, overcrowding, and general run down condition of the park. It is a way for Hiltonia to show an interest and express concern about the park.

If you have any questions, or do not see the petition soon and wish to sign it, please call Kate Thursby at 394-8787. She is coordinating this effort.

restore the structural integrity of the Cottage. Working with the City's Park Maintenance forces, Bob Topper and Ken Kyte developed specifications and purchase orders to have insect infestation protection and major structural repairs to the front and rear porches performed by contractors.

Hopefully, this effort will mark another step forward towards developing a co-operative relationship with the City of Trenton to begin restoring the positive aspects of Hiltonia's "front yard".

KEN KYTE

BLOCK PARTY

The third annual Hiltonia Association Block Party is scheduled for Saturday, September 6, 1980 (rain date September 7) beginning at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children under 12, or a family ticketed for \$20.00 which would include 2 adults and all children under 12. Children under 3 are free. If you would like tickets call Doris Smith at 396-4732.

Committee Chairmen for the Block Party are:

Food - Fred Curvey
Children's Games - Carol Gaiser
Door Prizes - Madelaine Elson
Grounds - Maria Wegner
Tickets - Doris Smith
Beer - Stu Anderson
Adult Games - Peter Aluotto
Publicity - Gloriann Kyte
50/50 - Joe Priest
Decorations - Harry Elson
Music - Frank Kurtz

If you have any questions, please call Art Elson at 393-1722. Watch your mailboxes for further information. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Block Party - Art Elson (393-1722)
City Affairs - Larry Welle (396-0520)
City Improvement - Unnamed
Civic - Greg Smith (396-4732)
Council of Civic Associations - Maria Wegner (989-7124) (7121)
Hospitality - Terry Shields (396-2626)
Membership - Linda Reid (394-2314)
Neighborhood Improvement - Evelyn Ogden (394-9660)
Program - Mary Sue Topper (393-0432)
Publicity - Gloriann Kyte (392-6036)
Tax Abatement - Jock Reid (394-2314)
Safety - Glenn Palmer (393-0103)
Special Events - Carol Gaiser (393-7689)

TRENTON CITY MUSEUM

Ellarslie, the Trenton City Museum, is a 19th century mansion located in Cadwalader Park. The museum is opened from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily and from 2 to 4 on Sunday.

Ellarslie was designed by John Notman and was built in 1846 as a summer house for Henry McCall of Philadelphia. In succeeding years, Ellarslie had many uses - an ice cream parlor, restaurant, city zoo. Four years ago restoration began and now it houses the city's museum.

During the summer, there are four exhibits on display. They are (1) a collection of Trentoniana in celebration of Trenton's 300th Anniversary, (2) a rotating show of art works by the Trenton Artists Workshop (TAWA), (3) a history of gas stations architecture by Trenton's restoration architect, Daniel Vieyra, and (4) a pictorial exhibit showing the changing face of Trenton's buildings.

If you have any time or ideas the Trenton City Museum and it's associate group, the Trenton Museum Society would like to hear from you. Call Rita Smithson, the society president at 896-0515.

MEMBERSHIP NEARS

225

The Membership Committee reports that the Hiltonia Association has 224 members so far in 1980.

Work on the house to house membership campaign to identify the estimated 50 new Hiltonia families, since the last canvas in Spring 1978, is about to start. We need volunteers to help with this program. Please call Linda Reid at 394-9292 days, or 394-2314 evenings, if you are willing to help for a couple of hours.

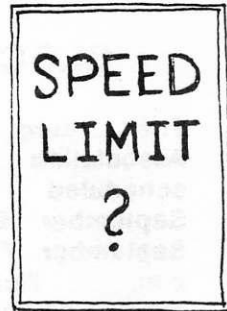
The membership open house has been rescheduled for early fall to take advantage of more pleasant weather.

LINDA REID

IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Efforts expended by the Improvement Committee last year in developing the "Hiltonia Plan" continue bearing results from both residents and the City of Trenton.

The recent thunderstorm, during the third week of July, aided our tree pruning efforts, but unfortunately created considerable litter problems along our streets and gutters. The City has been able to remove much of the larger debris, however, our help in containerizing the leaves and brush will aid in restoring the appearance of Hiltonia even more quickly.



SAFETY COMMITTEE

Having done considerable walking, bicycling, and jogging around Hiltonia, I have become concerned about the speed at which some cars travel through the area. However, I know from personal experience how easy it is to allow one's speed to exceed 25 m.p.h. while driving.

As Chairman of the Safety Committee, I wondered if others have concerns about traffic problems/hazards in the Hiltonia area. If you have such concerns, I would appreciate hearing from you about them. Please write me a note explaining the concern, and mail it or drop it off at 205 Renfrew Avenue. Thanks.

GLEN PALMER

Additionally, the Improvement Committee has been charged by the Executive Committee to initiate a Supplement to the Hiltonia Plan, outlining our Association's views regarding general improvements to Cadwalader Park. We're looking for your input!

KEN KYTE

HERITAGE DAYS - 1980

Ethnic foods, art, crafts, community displays, and entertainment were all a part of the festivities of another successful Heritage Days in the City of Trenton. Hiltonia's participation in Heritage Days was not only successful in a monetary sense, but also in developing social awareness of our neighborhood as a prosperous and "involved" urban community.

Hiltonia's display area was located in the Mill Hill Park for the purpose of dispensing information and answering inquiries about our community. Our display consisted of photographs depicting the structural and environmental beauty of Hiltonia, a pictorial scrap book of events, i. e. Easter Egg Hunt, Block Party, General Meetings, a log of our newsletters, an aerial map of our community, a copy of the Hiltonia Plan to show our efforts in community improvements along with various historical documents and real estate brochures published by the Department of Planning and Development.

The public was also able to purchase various plants donated from the gardens of Maria Wegner, Harry Barr, Joe Priest, Marion McLeod, and Carol Gaiser. Additionally, the Heritage Day Commission offered the Hiltonia Association the opportunity to operate two soda concession stands of which we would acquire 5% of the net profits.

The response to our request for help in participating in Heritage Days was tremendous

and our efforts brought the involvement of many new faces in this project.

Many thanks to the following people who gave of their time for the benefit of our neighborhood. We hope you enjoyed being part of Heritage Days as well as having an opportunity to enjoy the festivities. The volunteers were Pete and Evena Aluotto, Stu, Joan, and Patrick Anderson, Rita Carney, Pauline Cirillo, Peggy Connelly, Joe DePula, Art and Madelaine Elson, Dave Emge, Pat Flores, Carol Lynn Gaiser, Frank Kiernan, Gloriann and Ken Kyte, Vicky Madden, Joy Mangum, Mary MacCormack, Ross McLeod, Denise Mortimer, Ken LaBel, Connie and Lee Lybarger, Claire Millner, Joe and Judy Priest, Linda Reid, Steve Schragger, Barbara Shirk, Bill and Kate Thursby, Bob, Mary Sue, and Curt Topper.

CAROL GAISER

Editor's Note: Carol Gaiser was responsible for planning and coordinating Hiltonia's display.

CLASSIFIED



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WHY IS IT CALLED HILTONIA?

The "ia" part is easy enough. It is just an old Latin suffix meaning among other things, the land of. So Hiltonia means "the land of Hilton". But who, exactly, was Hilton? For the answer to this question, we are indebted to Karl G. Hastedt, who has lived in Hiltonia since 1950, when he arrived in Trenton to join the staff of the Trenton Times. The following is from Karl Hastedt:

A MAN CALLED HILTON

Unlike the midcity sections of Trenton whose origins go back to Mahlon Stacy in the late 1600's, and William Trent in the early 1700's, the Hiltonia area is of fairly recent origin.

It was named for and developed by Samuel Hilton who acquired the tract, which extended from the western edge of Cadwalader Park to the Trenton State Hospital, from the Park Place Land Company on May 18, 1923. Park Place had bought the land from Philip Dunn on April 1, 1890, and also owned a sizeable tract on the south side of the canal and old Belvidere Division of the railroad, which border Hiltonia.

Samuel Hilton, who operated under the name of Hilton Realty Company, came to Trenton in 1900 at the age of 18 from Staffordshire, England, and worked here for two years as a journeyman carpenter. He then went to St. Louis and worked for three years on the Pan American Exposition. When he returned, he became a contractor and speculative builder and for the next 30 years developed many tracts and erected more than 700 homes. One of his larger buildings was the old Stockton Street School just below East State which later was used for many years as the Administrative Building of the Trenton Board of Education.

Mr. Hilton laid out the entire tract, named the streets and put down sidewalks and curbing throughout. The first homes erected in the area were largely on Cadwalader Drive and Buckingham Avenue. The other streets were sparsely settled for several years. The area soon became known as Trenton's finest residential section, an honor previously accorded to the mansions of the West State Street area west of Calhoun Street.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Until the Hiltonia tract was developed, street trolley cars ended their run on Stuyvesant Avenue at Whittlesey Road, and later were extended to the city line. The opening of the Hiltonia area also brought about the erection, by an independent contractor, of the row of double or duplex homes on the north side of Stuyvesant Avenue in the 1400 block.

However, financial problems beset the contractor and the only way he could pay his sub-contractors - roofers, carpenters, masons, etc. - was to give each of them one of the double houses which they eventually sold to private owners.

The great Depression, which had its beginnings in the Fall of 1929, also hit Hilton Realty Company hard. Construction of new homes by Hilton and other contractors slowed considerably during the 1930's despite the relatively low cost, in comparison with today's inflated prices, to build elegant homes.

Undeveloped home sites were acquired by the City of Trenton for non-payment of taxes and in 1945, at the end of World War II, the City Commission began accepting bids from individuals and developers for the purchase of some 65 of the lots. By 1950, most of these lots had been sold and construction of new homes went forward at a rapid pace. Today, few vacant building sites remain in Hiltonia.

During the past 10 years, interest has revived in Hiltonia as many young families, turned off by inflated prices and poor construction of suburban housing, have found far greater value offered by the well-built and roomier Hiltonia homes, and their long-established city services of sewers, abundant water supply, frequent garbage and trash collections, fire and police protection, etc.

Mr. Hilton, developer of the tract which bears his name, died in his sleep on September 30, 1952 at his home on Lower Ferry Road in Ewing Township at the age of 68. He is buried in Ewing Church Cemetery.

If you would like additional information read about "A Pride Of Lions" in this issue.

CARL HASTEDT

DO YOU KNOW *A Pride of Lions* ?

If you have not already discovered it, and if you are a Hiltonian interested in the history of Trenton and the beginnings of Hiltonia, you may enjoy reading a novel set in Trenton in the early 1920's, when the "old money" centered in the Victorian mansions on West State Street, was yielding to the "new money" collecting in the modern mansions being built on the heights north of town -- a novel many people then living in Trenton, as well as many others living elsewhere, of course, read when it was first published in the 1950's.

The novel is "A Pride Of Lions", whose author, John Breooks, spent most of his youth in Trenton, and attended Princeton University just before World War II. After wartime service in the USAAF, he worked for Time and then for The New Yorker. *A Pride Of Lions* was his second successful novel, a sensitive, sometimes amusing portrayal of a young man's struggle to loosen the ties of his family and hometown and to come to terms with life in New York on his own. His family is one of the old families battling the encroachments of the new, and the young man agonizes over his decision to leave them and their struggle and pursue his own career in New York.

For Trentonians, this roman a clef (a novel in which actual persons or places are depicted as fiction) has special interest, since to anyone at all familiar with Trenton, the young man's hometown, East Bank, is clearly Trenton, and the then burgeoning district north of town, Northendia, where the "new money" is concentrating, is equally clearly Hiltonia. In fact, in the copy of this novel I borrowed recently from the Cadwalader Branch of the Trenton Library, someone has written in the real names, not only of some of the streets and landmarks, but also of some of the characters as well.

You don't have to be an old Trentonian to enjoy this novel, however. In fact, you may prefer not to have your copy notated and not to try to work out who any one of the characters really is. As a poignant dramatization of the struggle of "old families" facing the encroachments of newcomers, Brooks' novel is, of course, not really just about a particular family in a particular town, and his portrayal of a young man's maturing has appeal much beyond its particular setting too.

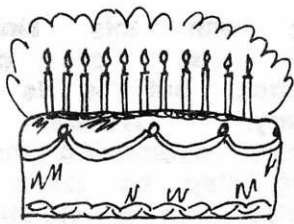
KATE THURSBY
HILTONIA ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

TIDBITS

Bobbi and Chuck Shelingoski of Buckingham Avenue have hosted a visit from Bobbi's sister and brother-in-law. They are moving back to the Trenton area after having lived in St. Louis, Missouri.

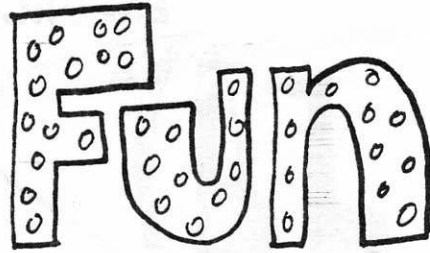
Amy Stellitano, daughter of Susan and Tony Stellitano of Cadwalader Drive, was a flower girl for her aunt who was married in June.

A. J. Bashiti of 2 Hilvista Boulevard and Robert Paci of 13 Cadwalader Drive received the ARROW OF LIGHT AWARD at Court of Honor held on June 26, 1980 for Boy Scout Troop 444 at Blessed Sacrament Church. The Arrow of Light is the highest honor awarded to cub scouts on Webelo Cub Scout level. The boys also plan to attend Yard Creek Scout Reservation in Blairstown this summer for Boy Scout Camping.



Happy Birthday to

Pam Pukala (5), Nikki Priest (5), Randi Kyte (7), Tony Graham (16), Tommy Bogler (11), Allison Bush (6), Adam Bitterman (2), Lauren Smith (1), Michael Paci (8), A. J. Bashiti (11), Stephanie Schragger (9).



12 MILES FROM HILTONIA

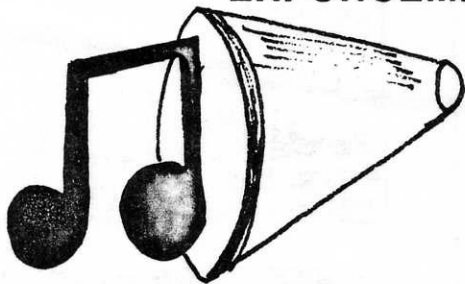
Twelve miles from Hiltonia, nestled in the heart of the Sour Land Mountains, is a sweet, fragrant, land of honey. Apple orchards and peach orchards abound, heavy with their gloriously ripening fruit.

Just three months ago though, the fruit couldn't be seen. What you saw instead were thousands of tiny, pink and white blossoms clinging to the branches. Each blossom was playing host to a brown honey bee, that miraculously managed to lift its overburdened, pollen-laden body into flight. Sometimes the poor creature was so heavy with this "gold dust" that as it lifted off its petaled runway, it fell back onto the blossom.

As the blooms began to float to the ground on the spring breezes, the bees in the hives were turning the apple and peach pollen into a an amber colored honey. They were also searching the fields for golden rod, dame's rocket, and every other wild flower so they could use the pollen to fill each chamber in the hive with rich honey. Their job of carrying pollen from tree to tree to help create juicy, snapping, September apples and golden sweet August peaches was over until next year.

SUSAN STELLITANO

ENFORCEMENT OF CITY ORDINANCES



EDITOR'S NOTE

If you haven't had an occasion to take a walk through our neighborhood, now is the time. Take note of the people who have fixed their curbs and sidewalks. It looks much better, though we have a long way to go.

While you are walking be careful not to trip on a sidewalk that still need fixing. My daughter took a header on Kensington and it is the homeowner's responsibility.

Also note, the change in color of several homes in the area. They all look attractive with their new paint. This is truly a beautiful area and we ought to enjoy it, use it, and take care of it.

My condolences to the family of Maggie Lockett who died several weeks ago. Maggie was one of our block representatives. Denise Mortimer has graciously taken over that job.

Thank you to all who wrote articles for this issue. It takes time to bring you the news. I appreciate your cooperation.

GLORIANN KYTE

While law enforcement is the primary responsibility of our police force, action on the part of the private citizen is sometimes a necessary element of police work. Consider Trenton's regulation pertaining to noise. It is unlawful to operate a device "with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing....or in such manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of neighboring inhabitants." Although the statute reads clear enough, it does not offer criteria, such as absolute sound levels, or methods of measurement, by which a police officer can independently determine when a given noise is disturbing.

Enforcement of a law requires action, in the form of a complaint, on the part of someone who has suffered the discomfort. With a formal complaint, the police can take appropriate action to stop the offense and if necessary prosecute the offenders.

Dealing with this kind of situation is, of course, unpleasant, but it is often necessary. Trenton police authorities recommend that the following step be taken when confronted with a violation of noise and similar annoyances. First, call the shift commander at 989-3905, identify yourself and describe the offense. If after fifteen minutes, the situation has not been remedied, place a second call. Should the condition then continue, call and insist that an officer be dispatched immediately to take your formal complaint.

BOB TOPPER

YOUNG HILTONIANS

SWIMMING RECORD

The Ravine Swim Club held a picnic for members of their swim team on Monday, July 28th. The members of the team were presented trophies. The Hiltonia members were Curt, Rim, and Renee Topper, David, Kathy and Kevin Schroth, Robert, George and Michael Paci, and Patrick and Katie Anderson. They swam for a record of 7 wins and 1 loss and were tied for 1st place.

POSTER CONTEST

The Hiltonia Association is holding a poster contest for the neighborhood children. Elaine Martinez of 105 Renfrew Avenue will be chairperson of this event. Additional information will be available shortly. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Martinez at 396-0918.

Prizes will be awarded at the Block Party.

* Deadline for posters is August 31.

CONGRATULATIONS

George Vogler, son of John and Marion Vogler, will be attending the University of Colorado at Boulder to work toward his Ph. D. in Genetic Research.



BICYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Hiltonia Association sponsored a Bicycle Safety Program on Saturday, June 21, 1980. Twenty five Hiltonians turned out for an informative program.

Officer Dan Smith of the Trenton Police Department took on the responsibility of talking to the participants about bicycles in traffic, bicycle theft, and bicycle identification. Officer Smith brought along a movie, "Just Like A Car", which was enjoyed by everyone. All bikes were then marked for identification purposes. Officer Smith did a wonderful job for our young Hiltonians.

The program was held at the home of Bob and Mary Sue Topper and was scheduled by Glenn Palmer, Safety Committee Chairman with the aid of Carmen Armenti.

The Vagnozzi family of Buckingham Avenue had 3 very good reasons to celebrate. Son, Patrick graduated from Notre Dame High School; son, Michael graduated from Trenton State College; and daughter, Michele Vagnozzi Perone passed her bar and was sworn in on June 12.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Fourth of July has passed from my point of view, however, some scars linger.

One scar is the concern I have for what some parents in Hiltonia are teaching their children. In particular, I mean, the tacit acceptance (at least) of the illegal possession and blowing off of firecrackers. While the noise is bothersome, especially later in the evening, the noise bothers me less than the message which these parents are broadcasting: "I don't care if my children break the law!". I wonder if this really is the message they want to give their children? In addition, there is the danger to the children from the firecrackers. I'm disturbed that the parents aren't more concerned for their children.

The second scar is on my dog, Mousse. Mousse is very frightened of firecracker explosions. On the Fourth of July, while we were gone, he fought his way through the wire dog pen fence. It was observed by neighbors that firecrackers were exploded at about this time close to our yard. I feel certain that the firecrackers' noise frightened him, causing this action. He was returned by helpful neighbors and chained in the pen.

The firecracker noise continued and Mousse fought his way through the fence a second time with the chain on. His chain caught and he was trapped, hanging in the fence. He was observed hanging and struggling by a visitor to the neighborhood who provided assistance and more than likely saved the dog's life.

I would like the involved parents and their children to know how close they came to killing my dog. I wonder how long the firecrackers will continue to aggravate many adults and frighten animals now that the Fourth has past.

I would like to thank those who came to the aid of Mousse. appreciate your humanity.

GLEN PALMER

TREASURER'S REPORT

PLUSES & MINUSES

We improved our financial status considerably since my last report. We made \$166.55 on our Flea Market and have collected \$100.00 in dues.

Our expenses have included, among other things, \$47.00 on our Heritage Day display, \$39.00 on flyers, and \$30.00 for the Welcome Wagon. Our present balance is \$1,395.38 (but don't forget, our big bash of a block party is coming up soon).

DENISE MORTIMER