

# *Central Oak Heights*

*100 Years*

*1909–2009*



## *Cottage Histories*



## FOREWORD

The Trustees Minutes 1909-1943 were hand written, and deciphering them was time consuming. How much time was fully dependent on the neatness of the writer's penmanship. Names were sometimes misspelled; initials were often a matter of guess-work. Not all cottage transactions are recorded there. References were made to "Executive Committee" meetings, but minutes of these meetings have not yet been located, and may contain more information.

The histories of double cottages get very confusing since the names of owners change at different times for each half, get misspelled sometimes, and numbers get reversed occasionally. Even the leases can contain misspelled names, but the signatures are more reliable.

Many of the cottages around Tabernacle Square appear to have had two fronts, with porches on both north and south sides (or east and west) in their original design. I don't know how they determined which was the "front".

Addresses on the maps listed as "Fairview", "Pleasant View", and "Tabernacle Square" were not actually streets, even before paving. They were more like "neighborhoods". Bethel Trail and Hebron Trail are still unpaved paths.

The c.1949 map is included as a center-fold. It is of interest because it uses the "old" numbering system and even lists the cottageholders with the numbers and streets.. How many "27"s are there? How many "29"s? Interesting also that the anonymous creator of the map has it oriented "upside down", with South at the top and North at the bottom. The map was undated, but I've titled it "c.1949" by the presence of the Ritter cottage, which was just built that year, and list of owners which indicates the Mitchell cottage has not yet been transferred to Jean Young, which occurred in November of that year.

The cover map was also undated, but can be said to be "pre-1959" because the King and Brelsford cottages are still present (both were removed about 1959) while the "new" numbering system has been instituted, and the "old" dining hall and store have been removed.

A history of the roads and their naming (and renaming) has yet to be written. A lot of research is needed to straighten out the confusion.

A lot of papers in the Archives are still in their original boxes, envelopes, folders, or notebooks as they were given to me. They are inventoried simply as "envelope of papers given by so-and-so on such-and-such a date". There is a LOT of reading and researching yet to be done. Give me time.

Going through old pictures and postcards and trying to identify people in them has been a lot of fun! Learning the history and the people of C.O.H. has been a joy. I feel I knew them even though we never met.

Many thanks to MJ Coleman and Frank Hartzel for their efforts (and computer savvy) in putting the text together with the photos for this booklet, and to all those who were able to share their cottage information with me.

Jeanne Myers, 2009

“The Spirit of God Resounds from the Heights and Echoes into the Future”

## **Central Oak Heights Celebrates 100 Years ~ 1909 - 2009**

“Celebrating the Spirit, Echoing into the Future” is the focus of the theme for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Central Oak Heights. May the presence of God’s spirit continue to echo in the hearts and lives of the people who enter this community and experience the reverence of this place.

As one walks the grounds of this quiet hilltop retreat, the spiritual influence of past events and the people who participated can be felt. “Quiet “ was not the case for much of the first 100 years, as a matter of fact, there was quite a bustle of activity during the summers as can be seen in the following historical account.

### **The Beginning**

The rich tradition of Central Oak Heights began before 1909. Prior to that year, the Evangelical Association held its Annual Bible Conferences at various churches around its conference. As early as 1894, Bishop U. F. Swengel presented the idea of having a permanent place that would provide educational and spiritual benefits to the clergy.

In 1908, the Evangelical Bible Conference Society learned that Miller’s Grove near West Milton along the Susquehanna River was available. An agreement was signed at the end of 1908 and final purchase was made in April 1909. The name Central Oak Heights came from its **Central** location in the conference, the grove was full of **Oak** trees and it stood above the flood plain thus, **Heights**.

Construction began in the spring of 1909 as soon as the purchase was complete. The architect and builder, John C. Winters of Williamsport who was an ardent churchman and exceptional benefactor to COH, came to the hill with a group of workmen including carpenters and a cook. They began construction of the Winter Cottage which gave a place for the workers to stay. The Tabernacle was built next. This remarkable octagon structure still stands as solid as the day it was built 100 years ago. A dining hall which included a second floor dormitory was also built and ready for the 1909 Bible Conference held on August 18 and 19 of that year.

In the early years many of the attendees camped out in tents until enough cottages and dormitories were built. Some of the cottages were built, initially, to be rented and others were built to be sold. Eventually all cottages were sold except those that were kept for administrative use. Currently, 65 cottages are privately owned and are occupied for varying lengths of time from spring through the fall each year.

The Shaffer Administration Building was erected in 1928 to provide classrooms and sleeping quarters for those attending the scheduled events. Office space was available on the first floor and the basement provide space for recreation.

As the Heights programs and activities expanded, improvements were made to the grounds. Electricity was brought to the hilltop in 1912. Initially, two hand pumps supplied water for the camp. By 1925, a water main was brought to the grounds and piped water was completely available to all areas. Probably the most significant improvement was the installation of the pool in 1939 which was enlarged and improved in 1962. In recent years, major work on the pool was needed. This task was accomplished in 2005. Recreation areas for baseball, tennis, volleyball, horseshoes and shuffleboard were added.

## **Early Events and Activities**

The programs of Central Oak Heights started with the August 1909 Bible Conference. A 10-day camp meeting was held after the conference. Within a few years other events began to take place. One of them was the School of Methods which provided training for leaders in Christian Endeavor, Sunday School and missionary societies. The Summer School of Christian Education was started in 1925 and continued for 10 years.

As the summer programs developed, two main purposes guided the activities. One purpose was to provide Christian education. The second was to lead persons to Jesus Christ. The result was that many answered God's call to service as pastors, missionaries, and church workers; and mission outreach programs developed.

One of those outreach programs involved the Lewisburg home for the aged and orphans. Later, it was called the Evangelical Home and is now known as Riverwoods. The people of COH were closely associated with and supported it from its beginning in 1915. Central Oak Heights still maintains a close relationship with the home. The medical section of the home provided the seed for the Evangelical Hospital which was established in 1953.

One of the biggest events each summer was the Women's Missionary Convention. These were busy 3-day weekday conventions in which business was conducted, classes for instruction were held and guest speakers delivered inspirational messages. Some participants stayed for the whole convention while others came by carloads and busloads for a day. Several hundred women would converge on the hilltop and fill the tabernacle. The women found it necessary to have the Missionary Cottage built to house invited guests to the conventions. The first convention of the Central PA Conference of the United Evangelical Church was held in 1929. The Women's Society of World Service continued with these annual conventions until 1964.

## **A New Focus**

A new era in the summer activities began in 1941 with a week of intermediate camp. The camp was deemed a valuable event and was expanded in the following years. Eventually, the camps were extended to eight weeks for campers from elementary to high school. The results of these camping experiences were that many heard God's call to Christian Service as pastors, missionaries and Christian educators. As the camping program expanded the Bible Conference began to fade, but with the camping program and other events over 2000 persons used the grounds.

To accommodate the growing summer camping program 24 cabins were built on the south side of the ridge. They were divided into 5 groups with a lavatory/shower house for each cabin group. Congregations made contributions toward the cost of construction. For a contribution of \$1000 a church could have their name placed on a cabin, those plaques remain on the cabins and can be seen today. In addition, a new dining hall was constructed. These additions to COH occurred during the mid-1950's.

During this time the cottage holders association turned the property over to the Central Penn Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

## **More Changes**

By 1963 another phase of changes occurred when the State decided to make Route 15 into a 4-lane divided highway. Property was purchased from COH to widen the highway which necessitated moving the new dining hall 34 feet to the north and the removal of 14 feet of the Shaffer (dormitory/classroom) building. The stone observatory and outlook were destroyed on the point. In addition, access to the Heights was limited to southbound traffic on Rt. 15 which means those coming from the south in the northbound lanes needed to exit at West Milton and re-enter Rt. 15 south to get to the entrance.

## **Still Another Change**

With the uniting of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Churches in 1968, ownership was transferred to the Central PA Conference of the United Methodist Church. The annual summer camping program continued until 1986. With the closing of the camping program, a nonprofit Board of Managers of Central Oak Heights was formed. Through mutual conversation and debate, the Conference agreed to sell the property to the Board of COH. In 1990, the sales transaction was completed.

## **19 Years Later and Visioning for the Future**

Current ownership lies in the hands of the Central Oak Heights Association which consists of the cottage owners. The grounds and buildings have been improved and maintained by many volunteers who give of their time and talents and financial support.

Sixty-five cottage owners enjoy relaxing and spending time at COH throughout the summer.

For 15 years, Bethesda Day Treatment Center had their main offices in the Shaffer building. Currently, The Heights Retreat and Arts Center uses the facilities of the COH campus for a variety of scheduled activities throughout the year as well as summer music camps.

Each year a variety of activities occur on the COH hilltop. The tabernacle is utilized for worship, concerts, drama presentations, and memorial services. Many outdoor weddings are performed in the outdoor Sylvan Chapel and tabernacle. Cottage owners, churches and families rent the picnic pavilions and recreation areas for picnics. ”



The missionary cottage and cottages owned by the Central Oak Heights Association are available for weekly and weekend rentals and several of the cabin groups have been converted into family cabins and/or small group retreat centers.

This year as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Central Oak Heights Association intentionally continues its Christian legacy by providing a smoke-free and drug-free environment to the guests who visit the hilltop as well as to friends and families throughout the Susquehanna Valley and beyond. With the internet at our fingertips, we have been able to reach across borders including oceans. The Central Oak Heights community continues to serve as we are brought together by the love and fellowship found on this hilltop through our faith in God.

*“Our Spirit Echoes into the Future*



## #1, OAKVIEW



Cottage #1, built prior to 1911, is known as "Oakview Front" and "Oakview Back". It is presently owned by the C.O.H. Association as two rental units. These were formerly two separate cottages, still numbered "1" and "3" on the 1949 map. Since they were joined by adding bathroom and kitchen facilities in the space between them, the number "3" has been discontinued and the joined units are simply known as "Oakview."

Oakview Front, the east side, was originally the C. T. (or C. J.) Hile cottage. The cottage name at that time was "Oakmont". The Board of Trustees met there on August 4, 1911, as recorded in the minutes. In 1912 Mrs. Hile sold it to Bruce H. and C. W. Bower. There was a plethora of Bowers on the campground, mostly noted by their initials in the Trustees Minutes. In 1925, H. B. Bower (possibly the next generation after B. H. and C. W. Bower?) sold the cottage to the W. J. (or W. H.) Wallace family. It served as the Camp Administration building until it became a rental unit.

Oakview Back, the west side, was first owned by Charles A. Shaffer, the first treasurer of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees met in C. A. Shaffer's cottage on August 31, 1909, so it was among the first cottages completed. An early photo shows a sign hanging on the porch, so the cottage must have had a name, but the sign is unreadable. C. A. Shaffer passed away in 1935, but Mrs. C. A. Shaffer is still listed on the 1937 cottageholders' list. Later it passed to his grandson, Charles Shaffer Roseman. In 1947, the cottage was transferred to Charles Roseman's daughter, Corena Roseman Chavarria. The date of the C.O.H. Association's purchase of the cottage has not yet been discovered.



## #2, MONTEREY

Revs. W. B. COX and J. HARTZLER'S Cottages  
is equipped with an F. F. Gas Machine. Ask them their opinion about the F. F. Gas Machine.



The green cottage that we know now as #2 Pleasant View, was constructed in 1911 on lot #10. The old address was #5 Pleasant View Ave, but the leases were listed by lot numbers. The 1941 lease to Cora E. Cox or Mildred E. Myers (her daughter) still lists it as lot #10.

The cottage was first occupied jointly by W.B. Cox with J. Hertzler in 1911. F.W. Bower was named as the

occupant in 1913, then Jesse Newcomer. It was then occupied by the widow of W. B. Cox, Cora Emenheiser Cox. Our c.1949 map still lists "#5 Pleasant" as the Cox Cottage.

It was purchased in 1968 by Charles G. and Geraldine V. Cole. They are residents of Lewisburg. Charlie is retired from Pennsylvania House furniture Company as an upholsterer. Geraldine has served in the past as choir director at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, and both are still active in the choir.

Just this year, in 2009, the cottage was purchased by Rob and Lisa Black. Lisa is the sister of Laurie Slear in #5. While cleaning the upstairs, they removed the dropped ceiling and found a sign in the rafters. the sign said, "Monterey", which, they learned, was Spanish for "King of the Forest". The spacing of the hardware on the sign coordinated perfectly with the eyelets on the front porch beam; very likely this was once the name of the cottage, and now it has returned to that name.



### **#3, Site of KING COTTAGE**



Cottage of Rev. J. M. King

The original cottage #3 was built prior to 1912 on the lot where the water fountain now stands, near the Cole Cottage. It belonged to Rev. King, who was listed as "the late Rev. King" under the photo in the 1912 booklet. The cottage was occupied by his daughters, Minnie and Maude King throughout its existence. By the late 1950s it was in sad condition. It was purchased by the Board of Managers for \$200 and removed in 1959., "so as to enhance the appearance of this area of the grounds."



## #4, RANCK COTTAGE



Fairview Avenue, Looking East

This "front row" cottage was built on lots 15-17 about 1910, with a view of the Big Oak from the front porch and the Tabernacle from the back. It was originally a duplex, jointly owned; one stairway, on the north side, occupied by a sister of W.J. Campbell, Lenora Sheffer and family.

Under the old numbering system it was known as #10 Fairview, but there was also a #10 Albright Avenue, #10-12 Ridge Avenue, and #10-12 Tabernacle Square. Confusion reigned! Around 1950,

the Board of Trustees wisely decided to number the cottages consecutively and this one became #4.

The original owner, W.J. Campbell, passed it on to his son, Albard Ward and Evelyn E. Campbell, and it remained in the Campbell family until 1961. In the early 1960s it became a single cottage under the ownership of Warren L. Baughman, Jr. and his wife Doris, who purchased it from the Campbells in 1961.

From 1985-1998 it was owned by Floyd S. and Cynthia Sollenberger who put it up for sale in 1997.

Gary & Sherilyn Gray owned it from 1998-2007.

Since its 2006 purchase by Viola and Tim Ranck, it has become a work in progress with allover remodeling. They have knocked down several interior walls, including moving a wall that changed the dimensions of the front porch. They have also relocated the front steps to the side of the porch. The two back doors have been replaced with one sliding door. We're hoping they'll soon be able to sit down and relax in it.





## #5, BETHEL



Cottage of Rev. H. Minsker

It has been known as Bethel Cottage ever since it was built on a single lot, #19, probably about 1910. Under the old numbering system it was #8 Fairview, but could be confused with #8 Tabernacle Square, and #6-8 Ridge Avenue. In the renumbering, it became #5. The earliest known owner was Harry Minsker. It was sold to Ben F. and Mabel Heiser in 1942, and they maintained ownership until it was purchased by Nelson ("Nick") and Sylvia Caulkins in 1993. Sylvia is the daughter of the Heisers, and she and Nick celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2008.

In 2007 Rick and Laurie Slear, and their family happily took possession of

Bethel, and customized their cozy cottage.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.31.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 13. Archive materials.



## #6, HILLCREST

The cottage was built by J.O. Biggs, but the original owners are still unidentified. A beam upstairs has the date "July 30, 1910" written in red letters.

In 1949 it was purchased by Mervin R. Lippert and Jeannette M. Lippert, parents of William (Bill) J. & Mary Alice Lippert. Bill and his wife, Joanna, along with Mary Alice were active in the children's camps in the 1950s. Following the death of Joanna W. Lippert in 2002, Mary Alice shared the cottage lease with her niece, Mary Jeannette Lippert-Coleman and Don Coleman through 2003. In 2004 Mary Alice Lippert moved her part of the lease to Jonathan D. Lippert, her nephew. Jonathan is the youngest brother of MJ Lippert-Coleman.

In April to June of 2004 the west side of the cottage was extended five feet which allowed for a spacious back porch and increased natural light within the enclosed living area. This addition and reconfiguration of the kitchen and living room was designed by MJ's youngest son, Andrew D. Miller and his wife Donna Church Miller, both licensed architects working in the state of Vermont at the time of this writing. Both of MJ's sons, Joseph and Andrew Miller, grew up in this cottage so redesigning a familiar living space created a very successful result.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.31.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 13.  
Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 50.  
Archive materials.





## #7, PLEASANT VIEW



The cottage has been named "Pleasant View" since at least 1910; the trustees Minutes record meeting there on August 23 of that year. "Pleasant View" was pictured in 1912 booklet as "Cottage of Rev. J. W. Messenger" (sic). The spelling should be "Messinger", as requested by his daughter Emma on the 1954 lease. Apparently the name was frequently misspelled. J. W. Messinger served as

Secretary of the Board of Trustees in 1912-1913. Daughters Anna and Emma Messinger inherited the cottage from their father. Emma Messinger remained active in the Women's Missionary Society all her life. In the original numbering, Pleasant View was #4 Fairview Avenue, but there was another #4 on Ridge Avenue, so this one became #7 in the renumbering.

In 1965 ownership passed to Dorothea Kerstetter Reid. Dorothea was a granddaughter of J.W. Messinger.

In 1983 Ralph E. and Barbara Reisinger became the owners of Pleasant View, until it was bought by Cecily Nevadonski in 1997.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.31.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 13.  
Archive materials.



## #8, WOODLAWN



Cottage of Edward Martin, Milton, Pa.

"Woodlawn" cottage belongs to Ralph and Betty Wise. It was built on lots 20-22 in 1909. The oldest documents in our archive are the 1909 lease and sale receipts for this cottage to Edward Martin, a Lutheran from Milton.

Jerome Hornberger purchased it in 1919; his daughter, Grace occupied the cottage until the late 1960s. Grace passed away at Riverwoods (formerly The Evangelical Home) in 2007 at the

age of 104. The piano on which she played when at the cottage is now in the C.O.H. dining hall.

In the original numbering system, this was #2 Fairview, but there was also a #2 Ridge Avenue (Crestmont) and a #2 Albright Avenue right at the curve. All the cottages were renumbered around 1950 to eliminate confusion. Now each cottage has its own number regardless of which street, trail, or avenue is nearest.

In 1968 Wilmer Nyman became owner of the cottage. Ralph and Betty and their sons Gregory and Edward bought the cottage in 1987.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.31.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 14.  
Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p.35.  
Archive materials.



## #9, BOWERSOX COTTAGE



Cottage of Rev. W. C. Hoch and Dr. Fetherolf

This was originally a duplex owned by B. S. Sentz, and Rev. W. C. Hoch, built on lots 37-39 about 1910. Hoch sold his half of the cottage to a Dr. Fetterolf in 1911. Mrs. Fetterolf sold to B. S. Sentz in 1914. And in 1934, Sentz sold to Hoch. Ownership appears to have been going in circles!

In 1948 it was purchased by Rev. Irwin C. Bailey Sr. and Hattie G. Bailey who unified the structure. Later in the 1960s ownership transferred to Charles A. and Charlotte

Bailey.

In the 1980s the cottage was purchased by Robert and Mary Bowersox, and in 1997 ownership was transferred to Edward II and Diane Bowersox Havrilla.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.31.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 14.  
Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p.41.  
Archive materials



## #10, NOW ENTERING THE WOODS



Cottage of Rev. N. Young and Rev. D. F. Young

Originally Rev. David F. and Jennie Young built this as a duplex, 14-16 Tabernacle Square on lots 36-38 before 1912. It was shared with their uncle, Rev. Noah Young, who was the first secretary for the C.O.H. Trustees. The time when it was unified into a single family cottage has not been recorded.

In 1946 Rev. David sold the cottage to his nephew, Rev. Carl E. Young and Lois Horton Young and their

family of four girls for just \$1. Carl's family didn't keep the cottage too many years. Carl was preaching in Baltimore and didn't seem to have much time to spend at the Heights.

Since 1955 the cottage has been summer home to Rev. William F. and Thelma Bayne Woods and their family. Thelma grew up on these grounds as the daughter of Rev. E. J. Bayne, and used to play the little pump organ (featured in our Heritage Room museum) for hymn singing at outdoor services. Young Rev. Bill can be seen in many of the Children's Camp photos of the 1940s and '50s as director of staff member.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.31.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary  
Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 14.  
Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 26.  
Archive materials.  
Information from Jean Young Ocker





## 12, WILLKOMMEN DER SCHNEIDER HAUS



Cottage of Rev. L. C. Cooper and Mr. Frank Mitchel, Lewistown, Pa.

# 12 Tabernacle Square was originally a double cottage built on lots 37-38 about 1911. Its address under "old numbers" was #10 and #12 Tabernacle Square. It was occupied (if not owned) by L.C. Cooper and Frank Mitchel, then jointly owned by C. C. Mizener and I.E. Spangler during the 1940s. The Trustees' Minutes indicate that in 1943, Mrs. Sarah E. Spangler sold her half of the cottage to Rev. C. C. Mizner. (sic) Apparently it remained a duplex, since the two halves continued to change hands independently; however, the c.1949 map lists "10 - 12 Tab. Sq" as the Mizener cottage, as if

it were unified. the Mizeners had named it "Mizpah" cottage. On the back of the 1944 lease to the Mizner (sic) family there is a handwritten notation dated October 20, 1952 signed by the Mizeners certifying that they have sold #10 to Rev. and Mrs. Paul H. Kleffel and #12 to Rev. and Mrs. Harold C. Hornbeck. The names and numbers are reversed. #12 was leased to the Kleffel family and #10 to the Hornbeck family.

Cottage # 12 was sold to the Paul and Elizabeth Kleffel family in 1952. In 1959 the Kleffel family moved up the ridge into Paul's father's cottage, then #36 (now #56, the Hibb's), and put "#11" up for sale. On all the C.O.H. documents the number "12" is struck through and rewritten as "11". Even the carbon copy of the 1954 lease has changed number 12 to 11 (the original still says #12") with a handwritten notation "sold to Lloyd Mantle". The 1960 lease to Lloyd Mantle, Jr. and his wife, Alberta, has the typed number "12" struck through and rewritten as "11". So, which half did the Mantle's own? The 1960 lease also has the "12" struck through to make it "11 Tabernacle". It also has the notation, "Sold to LeRoy Flohr June 13, 1966".

In 1958 the Hornbecks requested permission to sell "#10". "Permission to sell" does not always coincide with a sale, however, as the Hornbeck's continued ownership in "#12" until 1961. The Hornbecks sold their half (#12) to Rev. Jesse C. Newcomer and his wife, Anne, in 1961. The 1961 lease to the Newcomers is for "12 Tabernacle Square". The carbon copy of the same lease has the notation, "Sold to LeRoy W. Flohr, lease issued July 29, 1963".

LeRoy Flohr bought the Newcomer's half in 1963 and the Mantle's half in 1966. The records state that Lloyd Mantle, Jr. and Leroy Flohr combined the two halves into one cottage in 1963. This is the point when #11 disappeared.

Robert and Helen Gabriel Sechrist purchased the cottage in 1969, and spent over 25 happy years here. In 1997 The cottage was transferred to Curvin and Joanne Snyder who remain active in the Central Oak Heights community.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.31. Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 14. Trustee Minutes 1943-1952, p. 3, 94.

Archive Materials.



## #13, FOOSE COTTAGE

It was built by H.C. Gurthrie as a double around 1911; he occupied the north side, now #14. The south side, formerly #8 Tabernacle Square, was owned by Henrietta Trate, then by Laura Farley, probably her daughter. It is the only double cottage that still remains so.

"Henrietta Trate, my great grandmother, came to C.O.H. and camped in a tent on the same spot where the cabin is built from the time they held their first camp meeting (1909). My great grandmother lived in New Columbia and they would come by horse and buggy. I also have heard stories about coming by train and walking up from the train tracks at the bottom of the hill."

--Margaret Miller Foose, 2009

Around 1950 it was transferred to Harriet Farley Miller. The 1950 lease is written for "lot No. 8 now 13 Tab. Sq.", so it seems the changing of the cottage numbers occurred in 1950. The 1970 lease for #13 Tabernacle Square was written for "Mrs. P. Grant Miller", Harriett Miller's other name.

In 1998 ownership was transferred to their daughter, Margaret Miller Foose and her husband, William. This has been a family cottage for many years and likely will remain so. Currently, #13 is being transferred to Lynn and Melissa Foose Carpenter, and last year the other half, #14, was purchased by Roger and Suzanne Foose Stanley. Melissa and Suzanne are the daughters of Margaret Miller Foose. She reports there is a door upstairs connecting the two sides of the cottage.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.31.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 14.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p. 247.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 74.

Margaret Miller Foose

Archive Materials



## #14, STANLEY COTTAGE

This is the north side of a double cottage built by its first owner, H.C. Guthrie about 1911. It was originally known as #6 Tabernacle Square, and can be seen in the photo captioned "West Side of Tabernacle Square" on page 57 of the 1912 souvenir booklet.

In 1957 a new lease was issued to a Liverpool family group and signed by Fred Zaring, Julia L. Zaring, Glenn Bucher, Bernice H. Bucher, Joseph Grubb, and Thelma Grubb. In 1970 the Bucher-Zaring-Grubb clan transferred ownership to Rev. James W. and Donna Grubb. The cottage passed out of the family in 1979 when it was purchased by Rev. and Mrs. G. Edward Loreman.

In 1989 Carol Mogel purchased this half of the duplex for her daughter, Lynn Yanders. Since her grandsons, Eric and Drew, spent more time in her cottage at #15, Carol sold #14 in 2008 to Suzanne (Foose) and Roger Stanley.

Sources: Central Oak Heights: a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.31. Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 14. Trustees Minutes 1909-1943: p.34.  
Archive Materials



## #15, FAR HORIZONS



Cottage of D. W. Erb, Shamokin, Pa.

Far Horizons cottage was built in 1910 by D. W. Erb. Since the front porch faced North Avenue, the original address was lot #37-39 North Ave. It was occupied by the Erb family, and in 1934 was transferred to John Dunlap and Marie Erb Dunlap.

In 1943 Joe Willard & Grace Kreckler purchased the cottage. Tabernacle Avenue runs behind this front row of cottages, and is closer for loading and

unloading vehicles, so the primary entrance has become the "back" door. For that reason the address for Far Horizons became #25 Tabernacle Avenue. The 1954 lease was written for "25 North now 15 Tabernacle Ave." as a result of the numbering change around 1950.

Since 1992 the owners are Carol Kreckler Mogel and her brother, Baird Kreckler. Carol recalls that when the Krecklers bought the cottage, "the downstairs was really dark--only two small windows in the kitchen and two in the living area, and both doors were solid." Her parents changed the doors, added the front corner windows, a small window at the bottom of the stairs, and the fireplace. Her mother, Grace, named the cottage.

Carol and her brother had Jimmy Potteiger redo the kitchen, add the extra windows and the sliding doors to the porch. He also sided it and screened the entire porch, "sometime between 1993 and 1996".



Sources:

- Central Oak Heights;  
a Place - a Program - a People  
1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.31.
- Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary  
Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 14.
- Archive Materials.



## #16, NORTH VIEW

This cottage was built on lots 41-43 around 1911. The first owner was Louis E. Wurster, a Williamsport hardware merchant and charter member of Saint Paul's church there. He was a member of the first annual conference to which laymen were admitted, in 1894. A photograph of this cottage with the Wurster family on the porch is featured in the 1912 Souvenir Booklet. Unfortunately, his name was misspelled as Lewis "Wurter" on the caption.

The second owner was Mrs. Kline of Berwick. Upon her death, the cottage was sold to her daughter, Ruth Kline. On April 5, 1948 this item appeared in the minutes of the Board of Trustees: "Stipulations of the will of Mrs. Alice W. Kline have been complied with, therefore the Board authorizes the sale of Kline cottage to Ruth E. Kline, proceeds divided equally between the Board of Missions of the Conference and the Central Branch of W.S.W.S. for Foreign Missions." The cottage stayed in the same position, but the address changed over the years. The 1948 lease was for "lots 41-43" to Ruth E. Kline. The 1954 lease was typed for "27 North" (handwritten "16 Tabernacle") to Miss Ruth Kline.

In 1961 the family of Rev. Ben Hoffman and Jean Miller Hoffman moved from their previous cottage at #30 Tabernacle Trail. Ben was a direct descendant of the original patentee of the camp acreage. Jean was active as a director of the Junior Camps in the 1940s and 50s. After 1985, their daughter, Jean Hoffman Robb and her husband Don, of Clearfield, PA enjoyed their summers here. Don and Jean were active in fixing and furnishing many of the rental cottages.

Upon Don's unexpected death in 2007, Jean sold their cottage to Leonard (Lenny) and Anne Lawrence of Selinsgrove. The Lawrences have become active members of the C.O.H. community, serving in the Middle School Music Camp.



### Sources:

- Central Oak Heights;  
a Place - a Program - a People 1975  
by J.W. Krecker, p.31.
- Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary  
Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 15.
- Trustee Minutes 1943-1952: pp. 33 & 34.
- Archive Materials.

## #18, EVENING STAR

This north-facing cottage was built in 1912 by W. G. Lamine at #31 North Avenue, and owned by him until 1928 when it was purchased by Norman L. Hummel and his wife, Edna. Their family consisted of Norman Jr., Benjamin (Logan), Donald B., and Elizabeth Anne. Edna Hummel died in 1958 and later Norman Sr. married Alice Niebel Steinmetz. Norman and Alice enjoyed another twenty summers in the cottage. Both Alice and Edna were leaders in the Women's Missionary Society of Central Pennsylvania Conference, Alice as president and Edna as secretary. Norman Sr. was a minister and later a District Superintendent in the Central Pennsylvania Conference.

Rev. Hummel as a very young man helped to collect five and ten cent fees from those who came through the gates to COH. As the program developed, he was a prime mover in the recreation programs which he saw as an essential part of the mission of COH. When his sons were growing up, they helped him weed, scrape, roll and line tennis and volleyball courts; the courts were ordinary dirt in those days, dug out of an unyielding hillside. For some years, volleyball nets and balls and tennis nets were stored in the Hummel cottage and were brought in every night. When someone else took charge of recreation, a separate building was erected for this purpose; it is now the shower and toilet facility near the west pavilion. The cottage became #18 with the renumbering in the 1950s, and the street address has become identified with the back door on Tabernacle Avenue.

When Norman and Alice were no longer able to stay at the cottage (around 1978), Norman Jr. and Anne Hummel took it over and became the owners in 1981. Since Norman's death in 1998, Anne is the owner of #18. She commutes from Sarasota, Florida every summer to enjoy sunsets from the front porch. [Submitted by E.H.L. 2004]

### Sources:

- Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.32.
- Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 15.
- Trustees Minutes 1909-1943: p. 75.
- Elizabeth Hummel Logan  
Archive Materials



## #20, WAYBRIGHT COTTAGE

This is one of the few cottages surrounded on all four sides by neighboring cottages. It was built on lots 40-42 for Charles Duck, sold in 1915 to Rev. Walter J. Dice. Ownership of this cottage at #27 Tabernacle Avenue passed through the hands of Rev. J. H. Fleckenstine and C. W. Barner, before being purchased by Rev. Paul S. and Vietta Wheelock in 1945.

Rev. Sterling Sheaffer was the next owner, and he sold to Andrew G. Reese and his wife in 1957.

In 1960 Curvin W. and Joanne Snyder of York, PA. bought the cottage, now #20 Tabernacle Avenue, and named it "Der Schneider Haus" during their happy occupancy. When the Snyders bought it, the cottage was bright blue trimmed in black. They never saw the inside before the purchase; the door was locked and blinds were pulled down. When they finally received the key, there were eight rocking chairs in the living room and a coal oil stove for cooking. Upstairs there was a powder room, a rope bed, and a double metal bed. They added a 2nd-floor room over the back (south) porch in 1987.

In 1997 the Snyder family made a "catty-corner" move to # 12 on Tabernacle Square and sold this cottage to John and Flo Waybright. The cottage operated with only cold water until 2007 when the Waybrights installed a hot water heater and a shower; probably the last cottage on the grounds to have that luxury. They also added a 2nd-floor addition over the front (north) porch.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.32.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 15.

Trustee Minutes 1909-1943, p.81.

Trustee Minutes 1943-1952, p.15.

Archive Materials

Snyder family memories.



## #21, MARANATHA

This cottage near one of the original water pumps was first built for George Brown about 1910, and its photograph appeared in the 1912 Souvenir Booklet. When the cottages were eventually numbered, this was #29 Tabernacle Avenue. Rev. S. S. Mumey was the owner during the late 1930s through most of the 1950s.

In 1958 Eugene Fuhrman purchased the cottage now known as #21 Tabernacle Avenue. Herb and Shirley Swank of McAlisterville, PA purchased the cottage in 1969, and they enjoyed many happy years here serving C.O.H. in a variety of positions. Shirley has maintained Maranatha for the pleasure of spending time in this beloved place with her children and grandchildren since Herb's sudden passing in 2007.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.32.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 15.

1912 Souvenir booklet, p.55; photo

Trustee Minutes 1909-1943, p.9 (Mrs. Geo. Brown); 1937 list in back pocket (S.S. Mumey)  
Archive Materials





## #23, MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

The Rev. David F. Young and his wife, Jennie Louella Young, were my paternal grandparents. They co-owned the cottage now owned by Bill and Thelma Woods (#10) with Great Uncle Noah, also a minister. They never owned the cottage which I now occupy.

Grandpa and Grandma Young had two sons: David Paul, my father, and Benjamin Ruben, my uncle. My father, David Paul, married my mother, Lillian Mae Mitchell, daughter of my maternal grandparents, Frank W. and Jennie Mae (Bollinger) Mitchell.

Uncle Ben married Miriam Minsker, daughter of the Rev. Harry Minsker and his wife who owned the smallest cottage on the campground (#5 Bethel).

Grandpa Frank Mitchell was a carpenter and general contractor living in Lewistown, PA. He and Grandma Mitchell belonged to Grace Evangelical Church whose pastor was the Rev. David F. Young. That's obviously how my parents met.

Grandpa and Grandma Mitchell and my mother Lillian literally moved to C.O.H. as soon as the weather permitted in the spring of 1911. I think they lived in a tent until Grandpa got a cottage built. Then he would work on another cottage and so on. My mother was of school age, so she was enrolled in the one-room school in West Milton (now a gift shop).

My cottage at 23 Bethel Trail is one of just a few cottages occupied continuously by descendants of the original owners. In my case, it was the Mitchells (first generation), my parents, David Paul and Lillian Young (second generation), Bryson and I (third generation), our children, Clark and Rosalie (fourth generation), and their children, Aaron and Christopher Ocker (Clark's sons), and Jennie Mae and Mitchell (Rosalie's children) (fifth generation).

When Bryson and I both retired from our careers, he as the brake engineer for Mack Trucks in Allentown, PA and I as the choral director at Freedom High School in Bethlehem, PA, we began spending most of our summers at the cottage, and it was obvious that we needed more space. The C.O.H. Board gave us permission to expand our cottage about six feet on one side to match the porch extension Grandpa Mitchell had built many years ago. We hired Jimmy Potteiger to do the job, and we were delighted with his work. When we came for Memorial Day week-end in 1995, our "new" cottage was ready for occupancy. We enjoyed the additional space and the new windows which certainly brightened up our dark corners. The Mitchell Cottage, built in 1911, has now been renamed "Make A Joyful Noise."

Contributed by Jean Young Ocker, 2009

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.32.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary

Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 15.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 26, 58.

Archive Materials.

Jean Young Ocker's memories.



## #24, K. SMITH COTTAGE

This little cottage is one of the row of cottages featured in an early postcard view of "Tabernacle Avenue". That may have been where the photographer was standing, but the cottages shown are mostly those along Bethel Trail.

#29 Bethel Trail was built in 1911 by Walter Rimert and passed down to two of his children, John and Josephine Rimert. After John's death in 1955, his remarried widow, Myrtle V. Beachel and daughter Mary Alice Dock shared the cottage with his his sister. Josephine died in 1962 without heirs. Surviving members of John's family were Pearl Rimert Rhoads and Sally Rimert Delcamp.

The cottage, renumbered to #24, remained in the family, passing to one of Pearl's surviving children, Ethel Rhoads Baumer and her husband, George Baumer of Mazeppa, in 1963.

After so many years in the same family, the cottage experienced a multitude of owners. In 1981 Don and Jean Hoffman Robb bought the cottage. It was Don who decided to minimize the space that the front and back doors took up when they were opened - he cut them in half vertically and hinged them. He added a brace to keep them rigid when the door was open - if you wanted it to be more out of the way, you could move the brace and fold the door as a bi-fold door. The springs which were used in hanging the porch swing were ones Don had scrounged from auto junkyards, back in the days when most hoods were held up by springs rather than a prop rod. The Robbs' sold the cottage again in 1985 when they moved into North View cottage, which had been her parents'. Preston Hadley was the buyer. In 1991 James Drick bought the cottage from Hadley.

It changed hands again in 1997 when Bruce Jackson took possession. He found a sign mounted above the door inside the cottage with the name "Olivet", perhaps the original name. He also found Walter Rimert's name and the date "1911" written on the wall in the living room, just inside the front door. Bruce renamed the cottage "Simplicity", and painstakingly hand painted a sign in lettering appropriate to the 1911 period. He took his handiwork with him when he sold the cottage. Don Robb pointed out to Bruce that this is a "double wall" cottage, meaning that the exterior was clapboards, but the interior walls were vertical planks.

The cottage again changed hands to Ken and Carol Smith of Selingrove.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program -

a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.32.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 15.

Archive Materials.

Bruce Jackson's memories.



## **#26 MORROW COTTAGE**

This is the cottage on the corner (originally lot 51) bordered by Bethel Trail, Albright Avenue, and Hebron Trail. it's the one with the American flag depicted in tiny lights on the side of the porch. Under the "old" numbering system it was known as #32 Hebron Trail. The building date is unknown, but the first occupant was George Reese, followed by Rev. Levi Dice.

In 1929 the cottage was purchased by J. Fred and Edna G. Bingman, and remained in the Bingman family until 1978. In 1957 the property passed to Rev. S.F. Bingman or Mary D. Bingman. Rev. Stewart Bingman was active in the childrens' camps throughout the 1950s and `60s..

Rodney W. Cook bought the cottage in 1978.

Herbert Morrow acquired it in 1992.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.32.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 16.

Archive Materials



## **Site of #27, BRELSFORD COTTAGE**

Little is known of the Brelsford cottage or the family. The name does not appear in the Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, nor on the 1937 list of cottageholders. Nor does a cottage appear in that location on an early postcard called, "Central Avenue, Looking West..." which shows a view along the path between the Dining Hall and the Store. However, a small cottage could easily be obscured by the trees.

The first mention I have found is in the Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, on April 2, 1951 they "...authorized new leases to read as follows...Anna Budd Brelsford or her husband George M..."

A second mention occurs on the January 30, 1953 list of lay-owners of cottages, "Mrs. Anna B. Brelsford, Muncy, PA."

We know only that the cottage sat in the treeless space behind Grandview and in front of the King cottage. It was removed in 1959 along with the King cottage,"so as to enhance the appearance of this area of the grounds."

Sources:            1912 Souvenir Booklet, pp. 59 & 61.  
                      Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 86.  
                      Trustees Minutes 1952-1959, p. 1.  
                      Archive Materials



## #28, AGAPE

The address has always been Tabernacle Trail, where the porch is located, but the number changed from #26 to #28 when the numbers were simplified. The cottage is surrounded on three sides by its neighbors.

The first owner was Rev. Henry W. Buck, then his widow. She sold the cottage to William Maxfield. So far, no dates have been found for these transactions, but the c.1949 map still lists #26 as the Maxfield cottage, although it was purchased by the COH Association that year.

Rev. Lewis and Wanda Paulhamus were the next owners. The Archives have a copy of the 1954 lease in their names, but it may have been purchased from the association at an earlier date. Later, their five children and Wanda's parents, Ralph E. and Grace M. Musser, were added to the lease.

In 1958 the lease for #26 Tabernacle Trail was transferred from Paulhamus to Ruth Rhodes. The following year she added Mr. & Mrs. W.D. Showers (Edna Emma Showers) to the lease. Ruth married Harvey G. Tome, and the cottage became the Tome-Showers Cottage until 1975 when the lease was issued to the Tomes only.

They sold the cottage in 1979 to Rev. William and Doris Utterbach. Jim Potteiger bought it in 1993, and was still renovating the cottage when he was felled by cancer in 1998. His mother, Elizabeth Logan, sold it in 1999 to the current owners, Gary and Conaley Visneski, who have named it AGAPE, God's Love for Us.

### Sources:

- Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.32.
- Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 16.
- Archive Materials



## **#30, INN THE PINK**

No building date nor lot numbers have been discovered yet, but #30 Tabernacle Trail is one of the few cottages that did not have to change its number. It was one of only two #30s, the other was on Ridge Avenue. The first owner of record was H.A. Snook, followed by C.H. Breon.

On November 10, 1943, The Board of Trustees approved the sale of C. H. Breon's cottage to Edward and Gertrude A. Hoffman of Milton.

Vance M. (Sr.) and Martha E. Dimmick bought the cottage in 1959. They named their cottage "Suts-Us," and it suited them for nearly forty years.

The current owners, Harold and Althea Smith purchased the cottage in 1998, and the distinctive pink cottage is now "Inn the Pink."

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.32.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 16.  
Trustee Minutes 1943-1952, p.3.  
Archive Materials



## #31, JUST AROUND THE CORNER

This cottage at #31 Albright Avenue, is "just around the corner" from the main entry road, North Avenue.

The original owner was J.A. Wray, himself a builder who constructed several cottages. The date of its construction is uncertain. The Trustees Minutes of Aug. 10, 1915 states, "Resolved. That upon the moval of his cottage upon the building line, Bro. Wray be given a lease for lots # 53-55 on Tabernacle Ave." Tabernacle Avenue? Where was his cottage that needed to be moved?

On Aug. 12, 1916, the Minutes state, "*Lots Nos.53-55 Tabernacle Ave. were transferred from J.A. Wray to Rev. M.A. Kennelley.*" That would be #32, now Joyce Black's cottage next door. Wray must have built #32 also, and the address could have been Tabernacle Avenue at the time, if that avenue were extended past Albright Avenue, it would pass by the north side of #32.

A few days later, on Aug. 15, 1916, the Trustees met again and noted, "Resoved. That J. A. Wray be leased lots nos. 53-55 on North Ave. within the next three months, provided he first disposes of his present cottage." Same lot numbers, different street name. C.O.H. is just full of mysteries to be solved! This resolution has pencilled parentheses around it with the notation, "Omit" beside it. That implies it was not intended to be part of the permanent record. Why not? Another mystery!

Another eight years pass, and on Aug. 2, 1924, the record states, "*Resolved. That the sale of the J. A. Wray cottage to Mrs. Ruth L. Brisser be confirmed.*" and "*Resolved. That lots #57-59 on North Ave. be leased to J.A. Wray.*" Is this, finally, the location of "Just Around the Corner"? If so, can we consider it to have been built in 1924?

In 1933 Rev. E. J. Bayne purchased the Wray cottage which was then #2 Albright Avenue. Thelma Bayne Woods grew up in this cottage before she and Rev. Bill Woods bought their own. Rev. Bayne wielded a lot of power on the campground and the memory seems to be that everyone was afraid of him. Thelma laughs at that notion; she considered her father to be "a pussycat".

In 1981 Tom and Georgia Geise bought the cottage, and Tom still seems to be constantly making improvements.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.32.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 16.  
Trustee Minutes 1909-1943; pp.82, 86, 88, 153, & 258.  
Archive Materials



## #29, DAVIS COTTAGE

The first owner was Rev. William Brown, who had his cottage built on lots 41 - 43. W. H. Brown was listed as a cottagerholder in 1913, so the cottage must have been built in the 1909-1913 time frame

Rev. Brown sold his cottage to Rev. A.F. and Anna Mary Weaver. Rev. Weaver was elected secretary of the Board of Trustees in 1926. Mrs. Weaver was the former Anna Mary Crowell, a former editor of mission materials for women and children. The c.1949 map shows #27 Tabernacle Trail to be the Weaver cottage. The address could easily be confused with #27 Bethel Trail, #27 Tabernacle Avenue, #27 North Avenue, or #27 Ridge Avenue. It made great sense to make this the only cottage #29 when the cottages were renumbered.

In 1959 Frederick and Bea Weaver officially inherited the cottage from Fred's father, although they had been regular summer residents throughout the 1950s. Fred was a college professor, and had his summers available for research and writing.

Rev. Derwood A. and Lois Strunk purchased the cottage in 1979. Rev. Strunk was pastor of Pine Street Methodist Church in Williamsport .

Later owners were Rodney and Nancy Stoner in the 1990s. Nancy stayed by herself for a few years after Rodney's passing, but sold the cottage to Art and Fran Davis in September 2003.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.32.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 16.  
Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp.158, 175.  
Archive Materials



## #32, CARLISLE CORNER

This cottage is located at the corner of Albright and Central Avenues. Its current official address is #32 Albright Avenue, but before 1950 it was known as #10 Albright Avenue. As you have read in the #31's confused history, this lot was leased to J.A. Wray, who probably built this cottage and then sold it to Rev. M. A. Kennelley in 1916. Therefore, this must have been lots 53-55 in the original plans, but the "on Tabernacle Ave." address is still a mystery. Perhaps the front door was once on the north end of the cottage (where an extension of Tab. Ave. might have been)? The current front door is at the south end.

On July 26, 1948 the Trustees noted, *"The Board authorized the transfer of Lease of the Mrs. H.C. Kennaly (sic) cottage to George F. Jammer or Blanche M. Jammer."* Blanche Jammer, was the daughter of the Kennelley's.

In 1956 ownership was transferred to Adah and Franklin D. Kramer, and in 1975 to their daughter, Joyce Kramer Black and her husband, John L.

Joyce Black continues to enjoy spending time at the cottage every summer.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.33.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 16.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p.36.

C.O.H. Board Minutes 1952-1959, p. 53.

Archive Materials





## #33, MISSIONARY COTTAGE



The Missionary Cottage was built by J. C. Winter on lots 57-59 at the corner of Central and Albright Avenues in 1923, at the request of the Central Pennsylvania Branch of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society at a cost of \$1200, paid by the WMS. Excerpted from the *Constitution and By-Laws of the Young Woman's Missionary Cottage at Central Oak Heights*: "Article I; Name: The name of

this Cottage shall be the Young Woman's Cottage of the Central Pennsylvania Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church." That long name was quickly shortened to "Missionary Cottage"

It was intended as a boarding house for young women attending meetings on the grounds. The fee was 50-cents a night or \$3 for a week, including use of the furnished kitchen and dining room. It was usually full during the weeks that the Missionary Society held their conferences.

The Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) became the Women's Society of World Service (WSWS) when the Evangelical Church merged with the United Brethren Church in 1947, becoming the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

In 1968, the E.U.B. and Methodist churches combined to form the United Methodist Church, and the women's unit became United Methodist Women.

Missionary Cottage is used as one of our rental units, and can house up to 23 people.

Sources:

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 136 & 145.  
Archive Materials



## #34, MCQUATE COTTAGE

The building date of #34 Central Avenue is not certain. Trustee Minutes record that on Aug. 6, 1923, "*Lots No. 57 and 59 on Tabernacle Avenue were leased to Rev. L. A. Fuhrman.*" We know that Rev. Lester A. Fuhrman was the first owner of record, but the street name creates some confusion.

Two years later, the Minutes state, "*Resolved. That Rev. L. A. Fuhrman be permitted to hold his lease provided he builds within a year.*" The rules were that a lease, was granted on the condition that you build a cottage within two years. Were the Fuhrmans still tenting in 1925? Is this cottage sitting on lots 57-59? Was the cottage built in 1925 or 1926? Too many questions?

The c.1949 map lists #36 Central Avenue as the Fuhrman cottage, that much is certain. The cottage may have been built in 1925, and it remained in the Fuhrman family. In 1963, ownership was transferred from Florence B. Fuhrman to Harry B. Fuhrman. The next generation?

Then, in 1965 ownership of #36 (crossed out and handwritten, "now #34") went to Rev. and Mrs. William F. Zimmerman, and the following year he sold it to John and Rosalie Myers Woomer; John was a school principal in New Bloomfield, PA. Rosie was an active staff member of our children's camps in the 1960s.

In 2005 John & Donna McQuate purchased the cottage and have been working on it ever since. John likes to design and build.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.33.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 16.  
Trustee Minutes 1909-1943; pp. 145, 165.  
Archive Materials



## #35, HERSH COTTAGE

The white cottage beside the playground with the big letter "T" in the gable is #35 Central Avenue. The T stands for Thomas; Adella and Alfred Thomas bought the cottage from original owner, Rev. W. L. Kamble (sometimes spelled Kambel), in August of 1944.

Rev. Kamble was granted a lease for lots 61-63 on Tabernacle Avenue in 1924. That street would have passed by the north side of the cottage, had it ever been paved. So, we speculate that the cottage was built on this spot between 1924 and 1926. Also, the 1944 lease made out to Alfred J. Thomas or Adella K. Thomas listed lot #61-63 on Tabernacle Avenue. Later leases called it 38 Central, as it was listed on the c. 1949 map, and finally the current number, #35 Central Avenue.

Ownership was transferred to the Thomas's daughter, Ruthanne Thomas Hersh, and son-in-law, Charles Frederick Hersh, by action of Board on July 21, 1975. Ruthanne still occupies the cottage every summer.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.33.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 16.

Trustee Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 58, & 153.

Trustee Minutes 1943-1952, p.11.

Archive Materials





## #36 Ridge Avenue, The Caretaker's House

The Caretaker's house has always been in this location, but not as the stone-faced house you see now. The previous cottage was the wooden building, now known as "The Shack" down the hill behind the dining hall where it was moved in the late 1950s to make space for the current house.

### Caretakers:

Raymond Rightmeyer (or *Rightmayer*), 1909-1913

John Houck (or *Houch*), March 29, 1913 to Sept. 1, 1925

Rev. F.F. (or *B.F. or H.F.*) Mayer, July 23, 1925 -1927

Rev. John M. Price, July 17, 1928 -1931

Rev. J. W. Hornberger, acting caretaker 1932

Rev. C.H. Banker (or *Bankes*), acting caretaker, Sept. 26, 1932 - April 1933

D.C. (or *D. E.*) Edinger, Mar. 9, 1933 - Mar. 4, 1936

G.C. Hosterman, Apr. 1, 1936 - October 1, 1950

George Sheesley - Apr. 2, 1951 - 1953

Wm. J. Sholl - March 1953 - July 1954

Raymond C. Neitz - First full-time caretaker and first to occupy the "new" stone residence. Oct 5, 1954 - 1973. Raymond died in 1977.

These are the names of subsequent caretakers.

Dennis Wolgemuth

Patrick Sullivan

Their dates of service have not yet been clarified. Jimmy Potteiger

Paul Hummel, about 1990

Sam Shafer of Montandon, 1993 - 1996

Dale Beaton, 1997-2007; His wife, Jody served as registrar for a time.

Their daughter Shondra was married

June 9, 2007 in West Milton and held

the wedding reception in a large tent on COH grounds.

Walter DeLong, who often assisted Dale

Beaton, took over as Caretaker in

the summer of 2007.

Sources: Trustee Minutes 1909-1943 , pp. 61, 82, 106, 114, 122, 131, 161, 177, 196, 203, 229, 236, 242, 244, 252, 253, 263, 270, 282, & 290.

Trustee Minutes 1943-1952, pp. 31, 52, 74, & 87.

Trustee Minutes 1971-1982, p.15.

Archive Materials



## #37. CRESTMONT

Crestmont was probably built in 1909 for Mrs. W.P. (Sadie) Ritter of Lewisburg.

It was pictured with four members of the Ritter family on the porch in the 1912 Souvenir Booklet, and on an early postcard view with three family members.

In 1938 The Association purchased Crestmont from the Ritter estate. It was used for summer camp staff for many years. It is now a rental unit.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.30.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 17.

Trustee Minutes 1909-1943; pp. 301.



## #38, WALDHEIM



Cottage of Bishop U. F. Swengel

In 1909, J. C. Winters sent a crew of workmen to C.O.H., to build his cottage, which currently is the third cottage on the ridge.

On the completion of his cottage, his workmen had a place to stay. They then started work on the cottage just east, and built that cottage for Bishop Uriah F. Swengel. My mother, Edythe Swengel, told me that originally, the Bishop planned to use one half of the cottage, and his sister would use the other half; after the first summer, she decided she did not wish to stay there; too hot.

Upon the death of the Bishop in 1921, the cottage belonged to my grandmother, Bertha Buck Swengel. From the time I was 6 until I was 15, I spent my summers there with my grandmother. Upon her death in 1942, she left the cottage to Betty Miller Edwards.

The cottage was named WaldHeim. During WWI, the name was changed from the German to Forest Home. After that war, it became WaldHeim again until WWII. The name was changed again to Forest Home, and finally back to the original.

Submitted by John ("Bud") Swengel in 2006.

The cottage, originally #4 Ridge Avenue, now #38, has been shared for many years by the families of Bishop Swengel's son, Clark, and daughter, Ada Swengel Miller. Edythe Swengel, Clark's wife, whom we fondly remember as "Aunt Edie", was a fixture on the porch swing until 2005. The third generation, John Clark Swengel (known to us as "Bud") and his cousin Betty Miller Edwards and her husband George, known as 'Boots', were active members of the C.O.H. family for decades.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.33.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary

Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 17.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 19 & 32.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p.56.

Trustees Minutes 1971-1982, p. 20.

Archive Materials#39,



## # 39 GRANDVIEW

An original primitive structure was built in 1909 by J. C. Winter's crew for their own shelter while they were on the grounds to erect the Tabernacle. Once that most important edifice was finished, they went back to work on this one, configured as a double cottage and occupied jointly by J.C. Winter, the primary architect and builder of the early COH structures, and Rev. G. W. Currin ("Pappy Currin"), the maternal grandfather of Mary Gilmore Smith.

In 1911, Winter was already requesting additional space for the cottage. It had occupied lots #9-11 on Ridge Avenue; now he was granted part of lot #13 at an additional \$1.50 per year on the lease. The enlargement of the cottage probably began at that time. Winter was proprietor of Vallamont Planing in Williamsport. The original rough structure may have been demolished to make room for the drilling of a well. This was the only cottage having its own well supplying water for its bath and kitchen. With water coming from Milton to COH in the mid-1920s, the well was discontinued.

In July of 1913, Rev. Currin sold his half to Winter and his wife Minnie. Currin leased lots further up the ridge where he built his cottage (#61, Gilead) for the 1914 season.

Grandview has undergone renovations many times over the years. The first extensive improved version had large front and back porches, connected on both sides by exterior runways, a bathroom over the back porch, and a balcony over the front porch.

Even with the Winter family occupying the cottage alone, it was still known as #6 & 8 Ridge Avenue on the c.1949 map. There were 6s and 8s on Tabernacle Square and Fairview as well. The renumbering of about 1950 made Grandview the only #39.

The Winters (J.C. and Minnie) passed away and the cottage was then owned by daughter Ora, who married Lawrence Waltz, a widower. It remained in the Winter family after 1974, when it was transferred to Lawrence's daughter Ruth Waltz Herman and her husband Leigh Herman.

We think Herman was the next renovator. The rear porch was closed in, and became a new kitchen and part of the living room. The exterior runways were closed in to become on one side a now much enlarged living room, and on the other, a major addition to the dining room. He rightfully was quite proud of the new plethora of crank-operated casement windows.

Since 1993 Ben and Christine Hummel traveled up from Sarasota, Florida every year to spend their summers here with their daughter, Mary. Except for the back stoop and porch screen, their continuing redesign has been minor internal improvements. Chrissy and Mary still come every summer.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.33.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 17.  
Trustee Minutes 1909-1943, p. 49, 57, 65.  
Elizabeth Hummel Logan  
Archive Materials





## #40, DUNLAP-BITTNER COTTAGE



Cottage of Dr. J. F. Dunlap

The cottage was built in 1909 on lots 13-17 with the earliest group. It was a double unit, #10 & 12 Ridge Avenue, occupied by Bishop and Mrs. John F. Dunlap and the Rev. and Mrs. Solomon S. Mumey. It was converted to single occupancy after Rev. Murrey sold his half to the Dunlaps in 1911, and joined with J.F. Hower in building a double cottage at 41 Ridge. In 1941 Bishop J.F. Dunlap passed away, and the cottage was transferred to his son Irving, the missionary, and after his passing in 1953, it was shared by Mrs.

I.R. Dunlap and her daughter, Ruth Dunlap Long.

"As the only child of Ruth Long, I spent many summers at C.O.H. I was often told that the first service ever held in the Tabernacle (summer of 1909) was the farewell for my grandparents, the Reverend and Mrs. Irving Dunlap. The Dunlaps were newlyweds who were about to leave the United States for China, where they would serve as missionaries of the Evangelical Church."--Patricia (Long) Hammond, 2009

Irvin and Dolly Bittner acquired the cottage and it continues to serve the extended Bittner family as a site for their family reunions.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.33.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 17.

Trustee Minutes 1909-1943; pp. 33, 45, 46, 57, 58, 72, 74, 75, 80, 86, 93, 114, & 322.

Trustee Minutes 1952-1956; p. 15.

Archive Materials





## #41, STRINE COTTAGE

This cottage on the east side of the Tabernacle path, was built in 1911 as a double cottage on lots #26-28 by Revs. J. F. Hower and Solomon S. Mumey. (The families were related since Kathy Hower was married to Newton Mumey.) When Rev. Mumey moved to Oregon in 1911 to become superintendent in that pioneer conference, Rev. M. I. Jamison took over the eastern half of the cottage, #14, while the Hower family remained in #16, the western half.

In 1935, the Jamison cottage, #14, was sold to Rev. H. A. Snook. On August 3, 1944, the Board of Trustees approved the sale of the H. A. Snook cottage to Rev. Watson and Carrie Grove, who converted it to a single unit. The record of how the Groves acquired the Hower half of the cottage has not yet been discovered. The Grove cottage is still listed as #14-16 Ridge on the c.1949 map. Soon after, it was renumbered #41.

In 1970 the cottage was sold to Leslie and Elenora Lutz, who occupied it for twenty-eight years. Barbara Strine and Michael and Dorothy Strine purchased the cottage in 1998.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.33.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 17.  
Trustee Minutes 1909-1943, p. 275.  
Trustee Minutes 1943-1952, p.12  
Archive Materials



## #42, *OUTLOOK*



Cottage of Dr. H. B. Hartzler, D. D., Harrisburg, Pa.

This cottage was built for Rev. H. B. Hartzler (later Bishop H. B. Hartzler). It was bought by the corporation after Hartzler's death in 1921 to house Bible Conference speakers. The purchase committee paid \$800 to Bishop Hartzler's widow, and she donated \$50 of that to the Bible Conference.

In 1948 the Board voted to use Outlook as an infirmary for camping programs, and added the first floor bathroom in 1949. We know neither when nor by whom it received the name; the first reference to "Outlook" in the Trustees Minutes was in 1948 when they voted to use it as the infirmary. Known to campers and lifelong cottagers as "The Nurse's Cottage", it is still used for the resident nurse during Middle School Music Camp, but officially Outlook is a rental unit.

### Sources:

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 69 & 124.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, pp. 35 & 59.

Archive Materials



## *#43, GLENWOOD*

At first a duplex owned by former Congressman F.L. Dersham and Rev. J.H. Hollenbaugh, then Dersham alone.

In 1949 the cottage was purchased by Rev. Jay and Hazel Fleckenstine. The c.1949 map lists the Fleckenstine cottage as #21-23 Ridge Avenue, soon to be renumbered "43".

Rev. Irwin C. Bailey, Jr. and his wife, Miriam V. Bailey bought #43 in 1966. Miriam and their daughter, Rev. Kathryn Bailey Moore retained the cottage for forty-one years until it was sold in 2007 to Judy Kennedy.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.33.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 17.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 19 & 32.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p.54.

Archive Materials



## *#44, BIDE-A-WILE*

This large cottage on the west side of the Tabernacle path was built on lots #33-35 in 1909 by the Association, and sold to Rev. C. W. Finkbinder at the end of that first season for \$225. Rev. Finkbinder served as secretary of the Board of Trustees for many years, 1910 through 1924. After his death in 1927, his daughters, Anne and Lou Finkbinder were active in COH events throughout their lives. The kids of the 1950s loved to tease Lou about her driving as she took them to the movies in Milton across the old "bent" bridge. She had a hearty laugh. Lou passed away in 1972, Anne in 1981.

The cottage was purchased by Paul and Jean Hummel in 1984.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.33.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 17.

Trustee Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 19, 20, & 190.

Trustee Minutes 1971-1982, pp. 20, 47, 48 & 71.

Archive Materials



## *#45, HARTZEL COTTAGE*

George Pontius built it on lots 37-39. The earliest postcard views show no cottage in this location, and neither Pontius nor Rev. J. H. Schechterly, the first known owner, appear on the 1913 list of cottagers, so it was probably built after 1913.

On July 31, 1944, the Board of Trustees approved the sale of J. R. Schechterly's cottage to Mrs. Beatrice Houseal. Rev. Harry A. Houseal and Beatrice Abel Houseal were very active in the children's camping program of the 1940s and 1950s. It was during their tenure that the cottage number was changed from #25 Ridge Avenue to #45

In 1953, ownership was transferred to Miss Mabel F. Crowell, who moved to the ridge from #22 Bethel Trail.

The cottage transferred again in 1972 to Paul M. and Alice McBride of Williamsport. Other family members who enjoyed the cottage over the next 25 years were Paul D. and Althea McBride and Saundra J. Myers. The cottage was given the name, "M & M's" during the McBride-Myers years.

In 1997 Frank and Sandra Hartzel and their three children, Adam, Karla, and Tiffany, became the new owners of #45. They are also from Williamsport. The cottage and the family have both been changing inch-by-inch ever since. The children have grown up and expanded the nuclear family. The cottage has been sided and the front porch screened for the bug-free enjoyment of the whole clan.

Sources: Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.33.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.

Trustee Minutes 1943-1952, p. 8.

Archive Materials





## *#46, OAKCREST MESHACK*

We do not yet have a firm building date on this cottage, formerly #26 Ridge Avenue. The first known owners were Rev. H.R. Wilkes and Besse Reay Wilkes. They are not listed with the 1913 cottagers, but are included on the 1937 list.

In 1959 #46 was purchased by Charles E. and Edith M. Drick. It has remained in the Drick family, the next generation being Robert and Evelyn Drick. The cottage is currently owned by their son Robert and Diane Drick.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.33.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.

Archive Materials.



## *#47 R. OCKER COTTAGE*

We know this cottage was built sometime before 1912, because it is featured in the 1912 Souvenir Booklet on page 63 as "Cottage of Mr. D. F. Link, Nauvoo, PA" and on an early postcard as "D. F. Linck's Cottage". Not much is known other than that the first owner was David F.. Link (orLinck), and the second was R.C. Stabler. The 1937 list of cottage holders includes W.J.R. Rein, so we know ownership had changed at least as of that year. During Rein's tenure, the number changed from #27 Ridge Avenue to #47.

The 1973 cottagelolders directory still lists W. J. Raymond Rein, of Milton, at #47. Keturah Rein Renshaw was the owner of record in 1980 and also is listed in the 1986 cottagelolders directory.

Rosalie Ocker is listed in the 1988 directory as the owner of #47.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.33.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.

Archive Materials



## *#48, SHAFER COTTAGE*

This cottage was built on lots 42-44 at an as-yet-undetermined date. It first belonged to Rev. C.L. Sones, who sold it to Rev. Jerome and Mary Diehl in 1938. It was formerly known as #28 Ridge Avenue. The widow Mary O. Diehl kept the cottage after J. F. died in 1974, but eventually sold it to Rev. John R. (Jack") and Doris Shafer in 1981.

The Shafers were active in the childrens camping programs of the 1950s. Jack was one of the primary advocates for the cottage holders' purchase of Central Oak Heights from the United Methodist Church in 1990. The COH family will be forever grateful for his perseverance. After Doris' death, Jack married again. He and Phyllis have remained an active force in the COH community.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.33.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.  
Archive Material.



## *#49, MOORE COTTAGE*

The original lease dated August 16, 1909 was issued to J.A. (Jim) Farley, builder, for lots 45-47. His widow, Mary J. Farley, added their daughters, Emma F. Wolfe and Catherine F. Heim, to the lease. It has remained a "family" cottage.

In 1954 the will of Emma F. Wolfe transferred her interest in lots 45-47 on Ridge Avenue to her sister, Catherine F. Heim, and requested the lease be transferred to Catherine and Charles I. Heim. Mrs. Heim is still listed among the 1973 Cottage Holders.

The current owners are Ross J. and Elaine Moore, Helen J. Kelly, and Karen L. Jones.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p. 69.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 26.

Trustees Minutes 1952- 1959, p.1.

Trustees Minutes 1971-1982, p. 20.

Archive Materials



## *#50 RIDGEWOOD*

Cottage #50 was built as a double cottage by Rev. J.D. Shortess and his two teenage sons in 1916. (Since J. D. was well over six feet tall, unusual in his day, numerous lame jokes were made on the name "Shortess.") Later his daughter Irma owned the cottage. It was frequently rented to campers before the cabins were built in the woods.

Two unusual features of the cottage are hidden stairs from the kitchen to the space under the cottage--"cellar steps," as it were. And a folding door between the kitchen and the rest of the cottage that allowed Shortess and his wife to keep the kitchen warm (with a coal oil stove) in the fall, when, it is said, they liked to stay at COH until October.

The address was formerly #30 Ridge Avenue; in the Great Renumbering of 1950 it became #50.

In 1955, N. L. Hummel purchased #50 as a family cottage for Hummel offspring who were too numerous to stay in Hummel's small cottage (#18, Evening Star) when they visited. Chief occupants during the 50s and 60s were Elizabeth Hummel Logan and her children Anne, Jeanne, James, Kathy and Kim Pottieger. These Hummel grandchildren, in turn, brought their children to the grounds for summer reunions.

In the 70s #50 was shared by Elizabeth (known at COH as "Betsy") and Norman Hummel Jr. and his wife Anne who looked after the senior Hummels in their declining years. After the death of N.L.H. Sr. in 1980, the cottage passed to Elizabeth Logan and her daughters, James having died in 1998.

"Betsy" has been a long-time active member of the COH community, serving as Secretary of the Board of Directors and publisher of the Heights Highlights newsletter.

### Sources:

- Central Oak Heights; a Place a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.34.
- Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.
- Trustee Minutes 1909-1943, p. 5.
- Trustee Minutes 1971-1982, p. 70.
- Elizabeth Hummel Logan
- Archive Materials





## *#51, TRIBE OF BENJAMIN*

The building date is not certain, but the Trustees Minutes of Aug. 1, 1916 state, "Lots # 49-51 leased to Rev. A.M. Jenkins." The difference of the initials is probably an error of the secretary at the time. The first owner of this cottage has been identified as Rev. J. Morgan Jenkins.

On March 5, 1930, the Board of Trustees confirmed the sale of the Jenkin cottage to Mrs. Estella Beale. The c.1949 map of COH lists 31 Ridge as the Beale cottage. Within the next year the cottage was renumbered "51".

The 1953 list of cottage owners lists Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Tanger of Drexel Hill, Pa. The 1954 lease for 31 Ridge "Now 51" was made out to Miss Lottie Troutman and Miss Kathryn ("Katie") Troutman. Mary Tanger was the niece of Kathryn Troutman.

In the summer of 1965, Ben and Carole Hoffman purchased the cottage. With their daughter, Kim and her husband Mike Fredo, and their grand children, Evan and Jordan and Katlyn, there have been many memories made.

Ben has been an able volunteer and 'unofficial' assistant to several of COH's caretakers. His labors are appreciated and invaluable.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.34.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p.85, 219.

Archive Materials



## *#52, ROSEWOOD*

This corner cottage was built and occupied by Rev. J.W. Thompson, on lots 81-83. He sold it in 1918 to Mrs. Blanche Weber of Howard. In 1932 it was sold to Rev. G.(Grover) C. and Mabel B. Gabriel. Helen Gabriel Sechrist grew up in this cottage and raised her own family here. The Sechrist boys, the Myers twins, and the Mangle, Weaver, and Smith kids were the best of friends in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The kids never bothered to use the name of the cottage or the address, #32 Ridge Avenue (which became #52); it was just known as "Sechrist's".

In 1960 Bob and Helen Sechrist purchased the cottage at #12 Tabernacle Square, and sold Rosewood to the David N. Wise family of Berwick. It sold again in 1966 to Rev. Luke J. and Theda J. Brinker.

John and Patricia Lamoreaux bought Rosewood for their family in 1995.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975, by J.W. Krecker, p.34.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 75, 100, & 151.

Archive Materials



## *#53, SYLVAN HAVEN*

This cottage, which now sports a lighthouse in front, was built on lots 53-55 for the original owner, Rev. Charles I. Raffensperger, whose lease was issued in July of 1914. The family's name was frequently misspelled, Raffensberger, but it sounds the same either way. Ownership passed to his son Clifford I. Raffensperger in 1946, and remained in the family (although the number was changed from #33 to #53) until it was purchased by David and Debbie Shadle in 1984.

In 1998 the cottage was sold to Robert and Audrey Aarhus, and acquired the lighthouse theme.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.  
Trustees Minutes 1943-1952., p. 26.  
Archive Materials



## *#54, KELLER HAUS*

This large cottage was built on lots 57-59 for Rev. W.H. and Edna Warburton. The original address was #34 Ridge Avenue, but that had changed to #54 by the time the cottage changed owners in 1954 when purchased by Lee C. and Elesta K. Foust.

In 1966 it was bought by Rev. James R. and Mary Ellen Geiselman. During their family's tenure, a baby was born in the cottage.

The cottage was owned, briefly, by Raymond and Charlotte Neitz when they retired from caretaker duties in 1973. Raymond passed away in 1977, and Charlotte sold it to Rev. Charles, Jr. and Ruth Keller.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 18.

Archive Materials



## #55, TREEHOUSE

This is the cottage with the tree growing through the porch. The original building date is unknown, but the Tree House was built for John H. and Ida Eckenstine Wetzel, passed on to their daughter, Ann Wetzel Mangle and her husband, William J. Mangle. The original address, #35 Ridge Avenue, was changed to #55 around 1950.

The cottage has had its porch floor and roof altered periodically as the tree has grown. In the summer of 1976, lightning struck the tree during a nighttime thunderstorm. (I was here with my sons at the time, and that loud BOOM sat me straight up in bed! The boys slept right through the storm. -- Jeanne Myers) The tree was not badly damaged, and has survived and continued to grow and attract attention.

The third generation, Dianne Mangle Thomas, sold the cottage in 1979 as she and her husband, Lee Thomas (of cottage #35 Central Drive) purchased their own at the west end of Ridge Avenue. David H. and Lana Herrold became the second family to own the Tree House.

Later it was rented for a couple of years by the Association before being sold in 1995 to John Carter (brother of Jean Carter Hummel in #44 Ridge Avenue) and Peter DeFrancesca of Naples, Florida. They have expanded the house out onto the side porch and added lots of windows as well as the deck overlooking the woods in the back.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p. 75.

Trustees Minutes 19071-1982, p. 1.

Archive Materials.





## *#56, HIBBS COTTAGE*

This is another cottage whose building date is uncertain, but it remained in the Kleffel family until 1984, probably close to 70 years. It was built for Rev. Harry C. Kleffel, and passed to his son Rev. Paul H. and Elizabeth T. Kleffel in 1949. The original address, #36 Ridge Avenue became #56 during The Great Renumbering about 1950.

In 1984, Rev. Ralph M. and Audrey Hibbs and their daughter, Antonia, became the proud new owners of this hilltop cottage.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.

Archive Materials



## #57, SUMEREST

It was built by Rev. Lyman M. Dice, date unknown, and ownership passed to the next generation, William F. and Mildred Dice Snelbaker. The cottage, formerly #37 Ridge Avenue, was sold in 1950 to Rev. Harold F. and Laura Springman, about the same time the number was changed to #57.

The Springmans have discovered a list of 66 names with dates from July 23, 1925 to June 15, 1929 written on the inside wall of the living area. They are guessing this is a list of guests visiting the cottage during those years.

Harold was on the Board of Managers of COH from 1946 to 1987. He was chairman of the Committee on Recreation and the Chairman or a member of the Maintenance Committee during those years. His brother, Ralph, although never a cottage holder, served on the Board of Managers from 1959 to 1987, and served as Secretary of the Board most of those years. Both men were very handy and donated many volunteer hours helping to maintain the campground.

The cottage remains in the Springman family. Current owners are the second generation, Charles D. and Shirley Springman and his sisters, Virginia (an internationally-travelled bicyclist) and Eleanor Springman Mutchler.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 70, 114, & 206.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 70.

Virginia Springman

Archive Materials



## *#58, G. SMITH COTTAGE*

Originally owned by Rev. J.W. Thompson, this cottage was probably built around 1914, since the next five cottages, all of the same design, were built at that time. In 1939 it was sold to Ward K. and Beatrice S. Hosterman. The renumbering changed it from #38 Ridge Avenue to #58. Ward passed away in 1954 and his widow maintained the cottage until sometime after 1970. The 1970 lease is made out to Beatrice Hosterman.

Earl and Lucille Lundy were the next owners, and Lucille sold the cottage to George & Jeanette Smith in 1997.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.  
Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 75, 100, & 151.  
Trustees Minutes 19071-1982, p. 20.  
Archive Materials



## *#59, T. DRICK COTTAGE*

This yellow cottage was built in 1914 for Rev. Ammon Stapleton on lots 65-67. Its address was formerly #39 Ridge Avenue, and it passed through several owners, (Ralph Eckenstine, and Rev. Adam Ruth) before being acquired by Rev. Clair E. and Iva M. Keafer. The c.1949 map of the grounds lists #39 Ridge as the Keafer cottage. The name is misspelled as "Keefer" on many documents, but K-E-A-F-E-R is how he signed his name.

In 1955 the cottage was purchased by J. Lloyd and Irene O. Ziegler, who enjoyed it for over 40 years. They named their cottage "This-tle-Do-Me".

Just a few years ago, Irene Ziegler sold the cottage to the Tom Drick family.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.34.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 75, 118, & 258.

Trustees Minutes 1952-1959, pp. 1, & 7.

Archive Material



## *#60, JACOBS COTTAGE*

W.A. Morris built it in 1916 and sold it in 1918 because his home at Loganton was burned out and he needed the furniture there. The Board of Trustees Minutes of July 30, 1918 mention the sale of the W. A. Morris cottage to Ralph Pines. Our C.O.H. booklets of 1975 and 1999 list the buyer as Rev. I. M. Pines. Brothers, perhaps?

An early photo-postcard shows the family of Rev. Elmer S. Hill in front of this cottage. The clothing styles they wear in the photo do not yet reflect "the roaring twenties", so they must have bought it within a few years of the Pines' purchase. A search of the Trustees Minutes revealed that the "Dr. Heiser cottage sold to E. S. Hill" was noted on August 1, 1922. A little confusing, but it appears the Hill family acquired this cottage from SOMEONE in 1922.

The c.1949 map of COH lists #40 Ridge as the Hill cottage, and Clara Hill remained there until its sale in 1969 (as #60) to Jay B. and Mary E. Jacobs. The fourth generation of the Jacobs family is now enjoying the use of this hilltop.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.  
Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp.13,135.  
Archive Material





## #61, GILEAD

Current owner Mary Gilmore Smith reports this cottage was built in 1914 for her grandfather, Rev. G. W. Currin. Currin previously shared ownership of "Grandview" with builder J. C. Winter. Trustees Minutes note that Currin sold his half of Grandview to Winter in 1913, and in 1914 a new lease was issued to G. W. Currin for lots 69-71 on Ridge Avenue. It has remained a family cottage for ninety-five years. Ownership passed to Currin's twin daughters, Elsie Currin Gilmore and Ella Currin Clewell in 1928.

The c.1949 map of COH lists #41 Ridge as the Gilmore cottage; Arthur and Elsie Currin Gilmore being sole owners since 1931. Their children, Paul G. (and Harriett) Gilmore and Mary Gilmore (and Edward) Smith took the lease in 1962.

Mary Gilmore Smith, her daughter, Elizabeth Smith Hakanson, and nephew (Paul's son), Arthur Gilmore still hold the Gilmore Family Reunion every summer on the porch and overflowing into the neighborhood.

Mary has spent time at COH every summer since the beginning; 100 years! Yes, she will be 103 years old in November of 2010.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 57, 65, 75.

Archive Materials



## *#62, MAYS-MYERS COTTAGE*

Rosie Myers remembered that she was about four years old when the cottage was built. That would be 1914. Her younger brother, Paul Mays, remembered camping in a tent behind the cottage for several years before they bought it. It was built (not occupied) by Rev. J.H. Ricker on lots #74-76 Ridge Avenue, and the Trustees Minutes note Rev. John B. and Rosanna Wilhelm Mays purchased the cottage from the Vermillia (the only mention of that name yet found) family on August 1, 1921. Family members say that Grandma (Rosanna) Mays supplied the \$600 to buy it. The Mays family began spending their summers here in 1922 with their children, Mary, Rosie, Bill, Paul, and baby Loveda. Eventually the back porch was enclosed to accommodate a (very small) bathroom.

Rosie married Eugene H. Myers and they continued to bring their boys, Jack, and twins, Jimmy and Jerry, to C.O.H. every summer throughout the 1940s and 1950s. The address at #42 Ridge Avenue was changed to #62. Jerry remembers an oil-stove on the back porch that served as the kitchen. Rosie told the story of little Jackie carefully scooping sand into the big oil can. Sometimes, during Missionary Convention, the boys were relegated to sleep on the porch because all the beds and couches were claimed by the numerous women visitors. All three boys served as lifeguards at the pool.

In 1960, J. B. Mays requested approval from the Board to transfer the cottage lease to his daughter, Rosie. The Board also approved a request by Eugene Myers to improve the cottage. Until about 1972 it was strictly a cold-water cottage. Rosie had Raymond Neitz remove the rickety back stairs and enclose the entire back porch to accommodate the larger kitchen sink, hot water heater, and new bathtub. The kitchen window overlooks the playground, making it easy to keep an eye on the next generation of Myers kids.

In 1978 Rosie requested that her sons be added to the lease. Jerry's sons, Keith and Wayne spent many summers here with Grandma Myers, and now Keith's children, Madeline and Ben look forward to visiting from their home in Connecticut. The side porch has been screened in, but the front porch is left open because Mom (Rosie) always believed open porches invite conversation as people stroll up and down the ridge.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program -  
a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.34.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary  
Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.  
Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p.126.  
Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 86.  
Archive Materials  
Memories of Myers family members



## #63, ELIM

Built by Rev. Edward E. Crumbling in 1915 on lots 81-83. The porch banister is the altar railing from the dismantled church. One of the Crumbling Bibles is in the cottage; its pages, though now somewhat cracked and discolored, reveal marginal notes made by the former chancellor. One of those notes reveals how he named the cottage. Exodus 15:27. It reads, "And they came to Elim where there were twelve wells of water, and three score and ten palm trees..." He underscored Elim, drew an arrow up to the margin where her wrote "A new Elim = Central Oak Heights". Another arrow comes up from "palm trees" to his note, "oak trees". The Crumbling girls were good friends of Mary Gilmore, next door.

In 1935 it was purchased by Rev. Harry M. and Esther Buck. The cottage number changed from #43 to #63 in 1950.

In 1960 the cottage was sold to Rev. Gerald G. and Geraldine Heilman ("Gerry-he and Gerry-she"). Between their five children (Suzanne, Peter, Elizabeth, Paul, and Rebecca), twelve grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, the upper ridge is swarming with Heilmans.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.35.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p.82.

Archive Material



## *#64, GILBERT COTTAGE*

On August 10, 1915, the Board of Trustees leased lots 78-80 on Ridge Avenue to Rev. W.H. Lilly. The cottage was probably built over that winter. On August 5, 1935 the Board approved the sale of the cottage at #44 Ridge Avenue to Rev. Clair Kreidler and his wife Anna. The cottage was painted a dark forest green.

After more than thirty-five years of leadership at C.O.H., the Kreidlers sold the cottage in 1973 to Rev. Edward and Elsie Yarnell. Brian and Natalie Yarnell Gilbert have taken over the lease so the cottage still remains in the family. The Gilberts have covered the dark green with new tan siding.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.35.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 19.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp.82, 275.

Archive Material



## *#65, CRAIN COTTAGE*

This cottage was another constructed by Rev. J. H. Ricker about 1915, and he was its first occupant. In August of 1919 it was purchased by Rev. J. M. (or J. B.) Dick and his brother, Rev. Roy Dick.

Mr. Frank Jolly was approved to purchase it from the Dicks in 1924. Then in 1926, Rev. Reed and Eleanor Steely bought the cottage and were active in the C.O.H. community for over fifty years. In 1938 they completely rebuilt the cottage, adding a fireplace. It was then called #45 Ridge Avenue, but was renumbered to #65 around 1950.

In 1979 it was sold to Rev. Warren A. Baker. Five years later, in 1984, to Elaine Walters.

The current owners are David and Jean Crain, who have added a broad front porch across the cottage, the better to observe friends walking up and down the ridge.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.35.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 20.  
Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p. 114, 153.  
Archive Material





## *#66, HEFFNER COTTAGE*

This large cottage was built in 1926 on lots 82-84 for Rev. Walter J. Dice after he sold his previous cottage on Tabernacle Avenue to Rev. J. H. Fleckenstine. The Dice family remained at #46 Ridge Avenue through the renumbering. After his passing, his widow, Mrs. Belle R. Dice and daughter, Claire K. Dice continued to occupy the cottage until 1973, when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Everette R. Mashburn.

In 1998, after the cottage had been unused for several years, it was bought by Dale and Rebecca Heilman Heffner and repainted its current cheerful yellow. The screened sleeping porch is a much-coveted space among the four Heffner offspring. The overflow from the Heffner cottage flows across the ridge to Elim, the Heilman cottage, and vice versa.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.35.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 20.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, pp. 81, 151, 165, 170.

Trustees Minutes 1952-1959, p. 1.

Archive Material



## *#68, MAYO COTTAGE*

In August of 1925 the Board of Trustees approved the lease of lots #86-88 to Rev. R. S. Starr, and the cottage was built before the next summer. The original address was #48 Ridge Avenue, and the residents remained the same even after the numbers were changed. Mae Starr Davis, widow of Rev. R.S. Starr, finally sold the cottage in 1969 to Lee and Dianne Mangle Thomas.

The Thomas family represents a merger of two other C. O. H. families; the Wetzel/Mangle family of the Treehouse, and the Thomases, next to the playground. They added the redwood deck to the west side in 1974. The Thomases enjoyed their view of the woods for nearly twenty years, until the girls grew up and they were no longer able to spend as much time here. About 1988, they sold their cottage to Mary Ann Young.

In 1992, Mary D. Erhard bought the cottage. She and her husband Charlie enjoyed their summers here until his death in 2004. Mary has since remarried, and Mr. and Mrs. Mayo still drive up from Florida to spend as much time here as they can.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.35.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 20.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p.167.

Trustees Minutes 1971-1982, p. 12/193.

Archive Materials



## #67, NONABEL

In 1928 the Rev. Edward Charles Basom (known as E. C.) and his wife, Carrie, built this cottage on lots 81-83 on the Ridge at C.O.H. The name, Nonabel, is Lebanon, spelled backwards; Carrie was from Lebanon, Pennsylvania. They wanted a cottage with lots of light and lots of room for family and friends. The original structure consisted of a living room, small kitchen, and a screened dining porch that went around the side and back of the cottage on the first floor. The second floor had three bedrooms and a bathroom.

In the early 1950s, the structure of the first floor was changed. A large screened-in dining area and kitchen were added to the back of the cottage. Part of the original screened porch was enclosed and made into a bedroom. The original kitchen became a bathroom. Part of the wrap-around screened porch off the living room was maintained as a porch. The upstairs remained unchanged.

Cottage #67 has remained the Basom family cottage for all of its 81 years. After the deaths of E. C. and Carrie, the cottage ownership passed to their son, Rev. William E. (Bill) and his wife, Ruth. In fact they had their honeymoon, complete with a shivery, at the cottage in August, 1939. After the births of their four children (Nash Scott, Kathleen, and Kenneth), the cottage was a lively place each summer. Ruth would come to the cottage with the children and spend the entire summer. Bill was pastor of Beverly Hills Community Church in Alexandria, Virginia, so he would come to visit on weekends and spend the month of August at C.O.H. with the family. Bill and Ruth had their 40th Anniversary celebration at the cottage in 1979.

All of the Basom siblings and their families have enjoyed spending time at the cottage over the years. Many extended family and friends also gather each summer. In the 1980s the ownership of the cottage was given to Scott Basom and his wife, Linda. Now they and their sons and their spouses (Allen and Deborah Basom, and Aaron and Lillian Basom) spend summers enjoying the cottage on the hilltop and the community known as Central Oak Heights. In time we hope that again there will be the patter of little Basom feet in cottage #67 and that great, great grandfather, E. C., will be pleased.

Submitted by Linda Bartges Basom, 2009

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.35.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet,

John R. Shafer, ed., p. 20.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p. 177, 190.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p.39.

Linda Bartges Basom

Archive Material



## *#69, BIR'DELL*

This cottage, originally #19 Oakland Avenue, was built on lots 24-26 about 1926 by Rev. Andrew D. Gramley and his wife, Ada. In 1947 the lease was transferred to his son Dale H. and Caroline J. Gramley.

By the time Willard (Sr.) and Nina Dyer bought it in 1953, the cottage had been renumbered to #69. Willard Sr. died soon thereafter and Nina remarried to John E. Phillips in 1955. Nina Dyer Phillips remained in ownership of the cottage passing the lease along to her son, Willard (Jr.) and Phyllis Dyer, in 1990. David and Gwen Dyer Moyer, daughter of Willard and Phyllis, also enjoy C. O. H. with their children.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.35.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 20.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p.165.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 31 & 32.

Trustees Minutes 1952-1959, p. 11.

Archive Material



## *#70, POOL-VUE*

Rev. Roy H. Dick built this cottage in 1940, after having previously shared a cottage on the ridge with his brother. The former #23 Oakland Avenue was sold in 1945 to Mrs. Maude Coffey. To avoid confusion with #21-23 Ridge Avenue, the renumbering of about 1950 designated this cottage as #70 Oakland Avenue.

In 1959 it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Heckel, Jr., who sold it to Phillip C. and Lillian W. Bower in 1965.

William and Isabelle Whitmyer purchased the cottage in 1979. Isabel is famous for her green thumb, and kept our Tabernacle supplied with fresh flowers for many years. Their daughter, Beverly Lucero, and her daughter, Misty, come from San Diego to spend their summers here.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Kreckler, p.35.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 20.

Trustees Minutes 1909-1943, p. 114, 153.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p.20.

Archive Materials





## *#71, YOUNG COTTAGE*

This is the Young Cottage in more ways than one; it is the newest of all the cottages, built in 1949 on lots 40-42 by Rev. Joseph and Dorothy Ritter. This was one of the two clues that allowed us to date the "c.1949" map. The cottage was already drawn on that undated map, so it could not have been made before 1949.

#25 Oakland Avenue was too easily mixed up with #25 Bethel Trail, #25 Ridge Avenue, and #25 Tabernacle Avenue, so the renumbering to #71 saved a lot of confusion.

Since 1979 it has been owned by Juan L. (Jack) and Shirley Young.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.35.

Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 20.

Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p.39.

Archive Material



## #72, PAWATINIKA

Built in 1929 as #35 Riverview Avenue by Rev. Samuel Abraham Snyder and members of the family. It has been a family cottage since its beginning.

Sam was a carpenter by trade as well as a pastor, and therefore well qualified to do the work. His wife, Hattie Maice Snyder, prepared meals to keep the men strong and working when they traveled from Baltimore to West Milton to build the cottage. The youngest son, William, was 17, and still at home. Therefore he was quite involved in the work. He loved architecture so it was not a hardship for him.

Grace Snyder (third child and second daughter) married Henry Gasull in June of 1929, and they spent their honeymoon at the new cottage, also helping to complete the work. Millard Dietz, son-in-law, (married to Doretha Snyder, the second-born child) laid the stone walkway from the road to the front and back porches of the cottage. It remains to this day. This cottage was christened "Pa-wa-ti-nika", meaning "Camp of my dreams". The cottage has 3 bedrooms upstairs, Downstairs is another bedroom, bath (with claw-foot tub), sitting room and dining room.

Several years later the back porch stoop was enclosed to make a pantry, This included a sink, gas stove, and a metal countertop.

Samuel and Hattie Snyder remained the lessees until September, 1954, when it was turned over to Henry and Grace Snyder Gasull. In 2001, at the death of Grace Snyder Gasull, Rev. William Snyder and Graceann Gasull Steckbeck became the lessees. In 2002, when Rev. William Snyder died, Graceann and her husband, H. James Steckbeck, became the lessees. Also included on the lease is Tedlowe Dietz, younger son of Doretha Dietz.

### Sources:

- Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.35.
- Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 20.
- Archive Material



## *#73, HUNSINGER COTTAGE*

The last cottage by the pool was occupied by W. E. Custer, probably in the late 1920s. The cottage formerly known as #39 Riverview Avenue was sold to Cora E. Yount in 1944.

In the 1950s it was owned for a while by Rev. Harry and Gladys Humphreys. Changing the number from 39 to #72 helped avoid confusion with #39 Ridge Avenue.

Harold and Helen Hunsinger bought it in 1966. Harold "Skip" Hunsinger can be seen in many of the camp staff photos of the 1950s. They have done considerable remodelling on the cottage.

### Sources:

Central Oak Heights; a Place - a Program - a People 1975 by J.W. Krecker, p.35.  
Our Ninetieth Year; 1999 Anniversary Booklet, John R. Shafer, ed., p. 20.  
Trustees Minutes 1943-1952, p. 11, 39.  
Trustees Minutes 1952-1959, p. 1.  
Archive Material





