

# Mariemont TOWN CRIBER

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## REMEMBERING CARL LINDNER

1919-2011

(Tribute on page 4)



*Carl Lindner tours Resthaven Barn as part of restoration efforts by the Woman's Art Club. Learn more about the late Mr. Lindner's impact on Mariemont on page 4.*



# A Lasting Gift to Mariemont from The Lindner Family

BY CLAIRE KUPFERLE, EDITOR

Without the generosity of Carl H. Lindner, Jr. and his brothers, a Mariemont jewel could have been lost. The Lindner family and his brothers donated \$500,000 for the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati to restore Resthaven Barn on Cambridge Avenue in Mariemont. It is now in use as the Woman's Art Club Cultural Center, with fantastic gallery space, studios, and classrooms. It is available to local civic organizations for parties and fundraisers.

Their connection to the barn is through the dairy, which their father operated from the building to the left of the Barn (as you are facing it). In this very small space, the three Lindner boys, Carl, Robert, and Richard, helped their father pasteurize milk collected from local dairy farmers and the thoroughbred Guernsey herd that stood at Resthaven. Early residents of the Village stood in line to take home some of the milk produced by this prize herd. This was the beginning of United Dairy Farmers and the far-flung holdings of the Lindner family.

Resthaven Farm was not originally part of the Mariemont plan. It was instead a



*Above, Lindner tours the Woman's Art Club Center. Below, a view of the newly constructed barn group in 1925.*

social experiment, conceived by Mary Emery, the benefactor and founder of Mariemont.

In the days before Social Security, it was up to the corporations to take care of their loyal

employees. Mary Emery conceived a grand notion to build pensioner's cottages, a demonstration dairy farm, a hospital, and a convalescent home for retired employees of Emery Industries. She called it her Garden of Rest, and named the area Resthaven. It was for the use of "those who have faithfully served the various Emery interests." Several factors, including Mrs. Emery's death in 1927 and the Great Depression, prevented the ambitious plan from being realized. Only the hospital (Mercy St. Theresa) and the barn group remain today.

In the 1920s,



Resthaven was used as a nursery and stable during construction of the new town of Mariemont. The mules and horses that helped stake out lots and pull heavy equipment were stabled there. During construction of the Dale Park School, the mules had to be fetched from Resthaven because the steam bulldozer excavating the foundation of the schoolhouse became stuck in quicksand. The mules were able to pull it out, and after much debate, the engineers were able to drain the quicksand into the small creek that runs behind the school, and construction could continue.

Trees that would eventually line the newly paved streets of Mariemont were grown in the nursery at the Barn. Some of the tree and shrubbery stock was brought in from Mt. Vernon, George Washington's estate in Virginia. Mariemont acquired foliage and a street name from this association. In 1934, the Harrison family took over management of the farm.

For many years, the Barn was used for storage of Village maintenance equipment. It was ill suited for this purpose, though, and the Village built a Maintenance barn on a larger piece of land in the industrial section of Mariemont that the Army Corps of Engineers had owned. The barn stood vacant, and there was much discussion as to its future. One option was to raze the barn and build several small homes. The Village would benefit from increased property taxes.

However, there was a lot of sentiment in the Village to save the Barn. Some suggested making it a community center and others thought office space might be the way to go. When Jane MacDonald took Bob Lindner on a tour of the buildings, he fondly recalled his days spent working there (and marveled at how small it all looked). He was a driving force in the gift of half a million dollars from the Lindners that saved the Barn for the Woman's Art Club.

The Barn has earned several important awards following the restoration: the Heritage Ohio Award, the Ohio Historical Preservation Award and the Griffin Yeatman Award. Jane MacDonald, who led the restoration project for the Woman's Art Club Foundation, was recently granted the Historic Preservation Award by the Mariemont Daughters of the American Revolution.

Today, the Barn is a thriving center for the practice and teaching of art in many forms, and is also used by local groups for meetings and events. It is truly a lasting gift for which we are all very grateful.



## In Memoriam: Carl Lindner

With the passing of Carl H. Lindner, Jr. on Monday, October 17, 2011, the Village of Mariemont lost a good friend and an important figure in our community's history, for it was in Mariemont that Mr. Lindner had his first job.

The Lindner family owned and operated the Lindner Quality Milk Company, which was housed in what is now Mariemont's historic Resthaven Barn on Cambridge Avenue. Young Carl, Jr. helped with the family business by running milk delivery routes in the Village.

Despite the fact that Linder Quality Milk was operating during the Great Depression, it was one of the Village's earliest and most successful businesses, adding to the strength and growth of our then newly developed neighborhood.

In 1940, when Mr. Lindner was just 21 years old, his father opened the first United Dairy Farmers store, which Carl, Jr. and his brothers operated after the death of Carl, Sr. in 1952.

Lindner Quality Milk eventually ceased its operations at Resthaven Barn. For several years, the Barn served as the headquarters for the Village of Mariemont's Tax Department and Service Department. When the Service Department moved to their new facility in 2006, and the Tax Department was relocated, it was feared Resthaven Barn

would be torn down. Neither the Village nor Mr. Lindner wanted to lose this part of history. It was Mr. Lindner's very generous contribution to the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati that allowed that organization to restore Resthaven Barn and create the Woman's Cultural Center of Mariemont.

In 2007, I had the honor of presenting Mr. Lindner with a proclamation, thanking him not only for helping to save such an important structure in the Village's history, but also for the part he and his family played in development of our community.

Such a fine man and good friend will be missed by all who knew him.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Policastro, Mayor*

