



THE HISTORICAL TIMES

Quarterly of the Granville, Ohio, Historical Society

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Winter 2011

Teacher, scholar, citizen

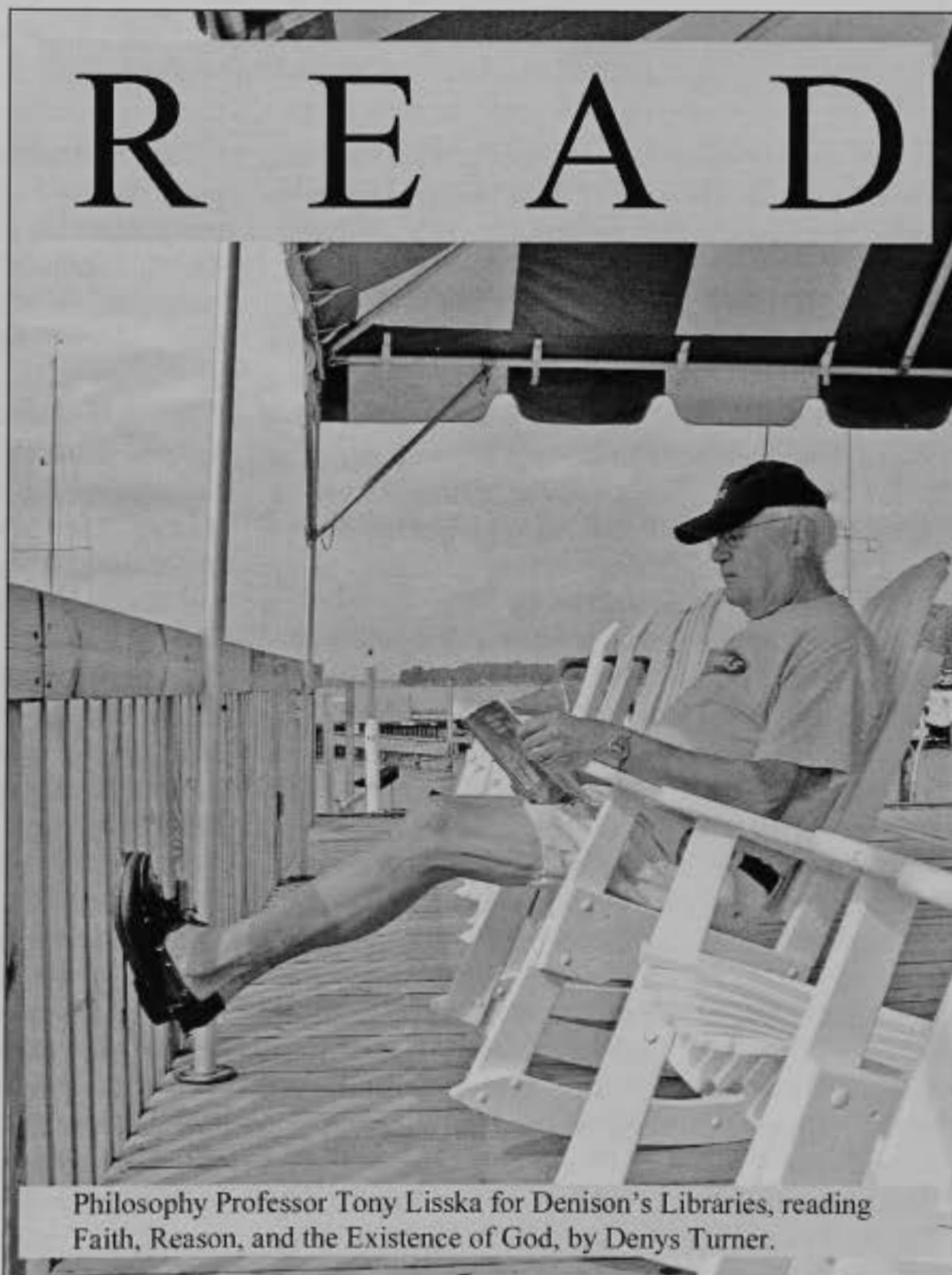
Historical Times
under Tony Lisska's
watch for 25 years

By TOM MARTIN

By neither human nor cosmic design, the promotional slope for a college professor normally plateaus at or about age forty, when one can be named a full Professor. Up until that time, the first seven years are filled by the tension-driven quest for tenure, full of not only academic pursuits but also of committees and faculty politics in case such involvement might somehow forward the candidate's case.

During the next years as an Associate Professor, teaching, research, and publication continue as a focus as often faculty meetings become less and less compelling for career reasons and generally more and more avoided for reasons of digestion and blood pressure.

Then in early middle age, the title of full Professor arrives. What does that leave? Anthony J Lisska, Ph.D., Maria Theresa Barney Professor of Philosophy at Denison University shows us what some of the possibilities are, and at the same time reminds



Tony Lisska relaxes at the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club in this photo taken for the Denison Library.



LEFT: The fifth grader at St Thomas the Apostle Parochial School wearing the shirt that every boy who grew up in the early 1950s wore.



RIGHT: The budding priest's senior photo from Aquinas College High School.

us how some of those early realities continue to churn the academy and the work of its exemplars in unanticipated ways later in their careers.

BACKGROUND

Anthony Joseph Lisska was born on July 23, 1940 in Columbus, Ohio, to Joseph Anthony and Florence Wolfel Lisska. His father, who owned Joe's Wonderland Bar and Grill in what is now part of Port Columbus Airport, was a voluble, extremely personable man proud of his Polish heritage. His mother was the modern-day equivalent of the Associate to the President of the Dean and Barry Paint Company in Columbus, and the president of that company loaned her his limousine and driver when she married Tony's father. Tony muses that all of the photographs of his mother taken before her marriage were of a woman with sad eyes - she had had a rough life - but after she married Joe, in all the photos "her eyes brightened up." Tony says that his mother once said that she "never had any fun in life until I met your father."

Joseph and Florence, who was of German extraction, were devout Catholics, and raised their sons Tony, Larry, and Dick to follow in that tradition. They also raised them to work hard and accomplish. Larry is a medical doctor in Jacksonville, Florida, Dick is a real estate consultant in Marietta, Georgia, and Tony was named the Carnegie Foundation United States Baccalaureate Colleges Professor of the Year in 1994. During Denison alumni events saluting him for that rare honor, Tony took care to attribute his drive to his mother and his effectiveness with people to his father.

Tony became an expansive host, and at one point the guest list for Tony and Marianne's annual Christmas party necessitated its being held over two Saturdays. The sauerkraut balls were epic and each year the beer can collection was larger than the last. His specialty, Polish jokes-in which he delights, was never on better display.

His daily hour-long walks have spawned several coffee groups in downtown Granville, following his natural affinity for social groups, some of which he formed. The Galusha Anderson Society is composed of former Academic Administrators and has lunches in the Buckeye Lake region. Tony and Don Bonar are authorities on the eating and drinking establishments there and have written articles and given lectures about them. The Samson Talbot Society is a weekly breakfast group composed primarily of the golfing group that takes an annual intrepid winter trip to Myrtle Beach.

An excellent athlete, Tony went to Aquinas College High School in Columbus and played basketball for George Steinbrenner while the latter was dabbling in coaching on his way to owning the New York Yankees. He also played baseball, and by the time he came to play in the Granville Recreation Commission softball league, was known as "Babe" Lisska for the prodigious line drives he hit virtually every time he came to bat, or at least when he made contact. Golf became his lifetime sport after he finally retired from the Denison faculty basketball leagues. Those who played on various teams with Tony recognized his integrity, humanity, enjoyment of jokes, ability to laugh, and strong forearm.

Tony's longtime assistant Cookie Sunkle likes to recall the time he swore at a trucker (he often dictated while driving), then spent five minutes apologizing. She says he also would play different music in the background to entertain her while he was dictating.

A favorite phrase that Tony has used for forty years is "I can't recall - it's my Middle-Aged Mind..."

Those qualities are part of what makes up Tony Lisska. He is an intensely serious scholar, with a lifetime interest in and focus on St. Thomas Aquinas. He met Marianne Hedstrom, recently from New Jersey and at that time an Episcopalian, at a Catholic Alumni Club party when he was a graduate student in Columbus. After they were married and moved to Granville, Marianne was involved in international network publications with AT&T and its successor, Lucent Technologies. Tony's baseball hat (the other prominent hat is mentioned later in the article) has the letter Y on the peak. He found it at the college bookstore while visiting either daughter Megan or Elin, both of whom are graduates of Yale Medical School. Earlier, Megan was graduated from Harvard College and Elin from Swarthmore. Megan balances Psychiatry and motherhood in San Francisco and Elin practices Internal Medicine in Connecticut.

EDUCATION

Tony's vita notes that he was educated at Providence College, graduating in 1963 with an AB degree (Cum Laude) in Philosophy. The details are not those of the normal undergraduate path. Tony planned to be a priest, and began his postsecondary education in Somerset, Ohio, at St. Joseph's Seminary, which Marianne calls "Boot Camp." The path to a teaching priesthood was for the novitiate to spend three years in a place such as Somerset, then to continue his work in a place such as St. Stephen's College in Dover Massachusetts, known as the Dominican House of Philosophy (which Marianne also describes as staying at the Hilton compared to Somerset), where he received his MA in Philosophy. At that point he decided not to pursue the priesthood and instead began to earn his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Hearing cars on the highway from within the confines of St. Joseph's in Somerset and yearning to be going somewhere in one of them had won.

In addition, he holds a Certificate from the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University,

which he calls "How to be a Dean in six weeks" a summer preparatory curriculum for academic administrators.

An academic biography would dig much more deeply into Tony's considerable vita, and the most academic reader would be most appreciative. In this short biography, however, it is his accomplishment as Professor of the Year that will have the central focus. For one, it helps answer what one might do after reaching age forty in higher education. One can continue to excel in all the ways that outside jurors find significant.

THE ACADEMIC

Tony's most important graduate school mentor was Robert G. Turnbull, Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Ohio State and himself a most distinguished scholar/teacher. Tony notes, "It was Bob Turnbull who forced me to re-think the scholastic philosophy from my earlier academic work with the insights and rigor of contemporary analytic philosophy. That combination indeed made my scholarly life." Tony has published nearly sixty philosophical articles, essays in books, and book reviews in *The American Journal of Jurisprudence*, *Teaching Philosophy*, *The Thomist*, *New Blackfriars* (Oxford), *The Heythrop Journal* (London), *International Philosophical Quarterly*, *Cross Currents*, *Speculum*, *Philosophy in Review* and *The Psychological Record*. He has also read philosophy papers, nearly ninety in all, at all three divisional meetings of the American Philosophical Association, the American Catholic Philosophical Association, several regional Philosophy associations, and the Institute for Medieval Philosophy, among other conferences.

As mentioned earlier in the article, Tony's scholarly work has been directed towards the texts of Thomas Aquinas, the great thirteenth century Aristotelian. Recent work centered on constructing an analytic explicatio textus of Aquinas's work on ethical naturalism, which culminated in *Aquinas's Theory of Natural Law: An Analytic Reconstruction*; this book appeared in 1996 from the Clarendon Press of Oxford University Press. A paperback edition was published in 1997 and reprinted in 2001. A more recent book-length manuscript has focused on Aquinas's account of perception in his philosophy of mind and how this contrasts radically from the Cartesian model so prevalent in Modern Philosophy.



Associate Professor Lisska in 1977.

Tony has been busy on the lecture circuit, recently giving lectures at Northwestern University, Iona College, The University of Notre Dame, The University of North Florida, Kenyon College, Marquette University, Villanova University, Oklahoma State University, Luther College, The University of Scranton, The University of Kentucky, the national meetings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association and the Central and Pacific Divisions of the American Philosophical Association, The International Thomas Aquinas Society, the Thomas More Society, and the Smithsonian Institute.

In 2006, he served as the elected national president of the American Catholic Philosophical Association; he delivered the presidential address at the annual meetings held in Granville on issues in inner sense in Aquinas. His sabbatical projects for 2009-1010 were completing three essays in natural laws theory — one for the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook in Medieval Philosophy* — and finishing a book length monograph on Aquinas's theory of perception.

In the fall of 1984, a Sherlock Holmesian Deerstalker appeared on campus — on Tony's head —

and various British teas began to take place. A sabbatical that spring had taken the Lisska family to Oxford, where Tony served as a visiting scholar and where in turn some of the traditions of an English Don rubbed off on him. Marianne says he considers it the best five months of his life. He was not connected with any particular college at Oxford, but spent a great deal of time at Blackfriars with the Dominican Friars there. He also attended philosophy lectures at other colleges and met many philosophers. The time in Oxford served as a useful background for a conference to which Tony was invited in the summer of 2010, where he and Marianne stayed in a fourteenth century Grand Guest Room at Trinity College in Cambridge and took th

meals in the Great Hall. He was invited there to meet with his fellow contributors to a Philosophy anthology, which has not yet been published.

AQUINAS AND THE DOMINICAN ORDER

Although Tony is a graduate of Aquinas High School, and might have pursued an interest because of his school's name, it was not until he first encountered Thomas Aquinas in a college course that a moral theory made sense to him for the first time. Tony says that Aquinas "tries to get people thinking about how developing human capacity is very important for human well-being and that somehow moral philosophy ought to bring this into discussion." He felt that Aristotle was being regarded as a strictly historical figure and that Aquinas was not being taken seriously. "I thought something was awry and was determined to look further."

"There are so many philosophical chestnuts in Aquinas — but to be argued for, not just accepted or blind faith. Some folks want to get God into Aquinas too quickly. I find him so important because he's shoving religious stuff down one's throat without a rational argument."

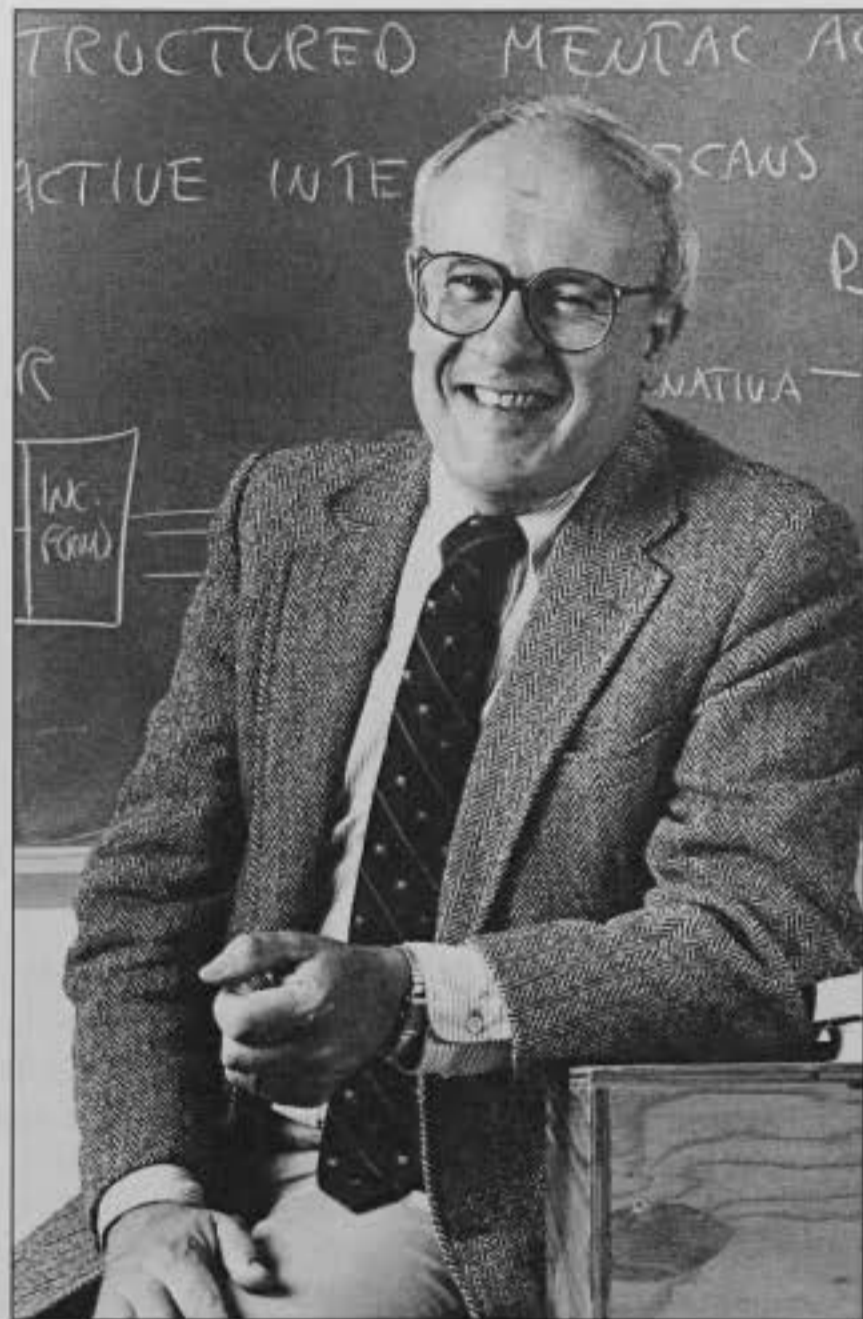
Friends who traveled to Italy with Tony and Marianne recently were treated to a very special inside tour to Roman Catholic Rome under the wing of a senior Dominican official from the Vatican. That came about in part because of Tony's remarkable networking skills, which he developed long before the term came into use, and in part because of his lifelong involvement with the Dominican tradition. Dominican Sisters from St. Mary of the Springs were his teachers in Thomas the Apostle parochial school (which was more or less across 5th Avenue from the present day Lisska Bar in Columbus). Dominican Priests then taught him at Aquinas College High School, and then he was a Dominican novitiate for four years until, he notes, "my knees got sore and I had cleaned out Purgatory."

TEACHING

Tony notes, "Teaching at an undergraduate college like Denison has always been an aspiration. Working with students and helping them become connected with philosophy is an activity I treasure immensely. In my early teaching days, I was concerned that materials in philosophy either talked down to beginning students or were too difficult for them. With this problem in mind, I wrote *Philosophy Matters* (Charles Merrill: 1978), which combined what I took to be the best of an anthology and the best of an analytic commentary." This book went through five printings and has been reprinted privately for the 2007-08 academic year. In 1990, he received the first Sears Foundation Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award at Denison, and as mentioned earlier, in 1994 received the Carnegie Foundation United States Baccalaureate Colleges Professor of the Year Award, for which there were 500 nominations.

"To teach well," he says, "I resolved long ago to be so prepared that I never have to read lecture notes in class. I also emphasize class participation, and of course don't hesitate to draw on concrete examples when they can help keep a class going. The Evergreens served a marvelous almond cherry pie and I've pointed to that as a Platonic form. To explain Aristotle's theory of the unmoved mover, I've also told about my teenage crush on Grace Kelly."

"There's an excitement about doing philosophy. I don't know how people teach other subjects, but as you approach philosophy, there's a set of problems to



Professor Lisska's avocation is history. He was a founder and editor of this Historical Times for its first twenty-five years.

be looked at. And you worry about certain questions and you show your students why they should worry about them."

"Using a blackboard should be like developing a mural. You know where you're going with the lecture and you show it on the board. You outline the structure of the argument: you don't just jot down words and circle them."

In the nomination for the Professor of the Year award, a student wrote, "Tony Lisska makes Philosophy come alive." A second noted, "He makes the classroom simmer with excitement. He has the knack of leading students into discussions of principles and then, often shockingly, turns the abstractions into personal choices." Another student stated, "You're never hesitant to ask a question or present an



The Professor of the Year with students at Denison University.

idea with Professor Lisska.”

In the same nomination piece, a faculty colleague wrote, he is “incredibly warm and caring, and generous with his time. He has an exuberant personality. He really cares about students and they feel that and really respond to it.”

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Outside of teaching, there are other challenges. He chaired the Denison Philosophy Department three times. He chaired a Presidential Search Committee. In 1978 President Robert C. Good asked Tony to become Dean of the College, the person in Denison’s structure who is charged with curricular development and academic affairs, and the designated Academic Advocate in the president’s Senior Staff deliberations. He served in that position for five years. He was the central author for Denison’s North Central accreditation project in 1980.

With this background he worked with President Andrew G. DeRocco to rather quietly build the Honors Program in the late 1980s. The Honors Program was a key part of the successful effort to begin to emphasize the academic quality of Denison in a time when party behavior appeared to have too great a hold on campus life. The next step was to improve the academic profile of the student body in part by offering Honors Courses to attract and retain bright students. In coordination with several recruiting and other supporting efforts, by the mid 1990s the

efforts were beginning to succeed as Denison’s academic profile began to rise and the tone on campus began to become more balanced. He served as Founding Director of the Honors Program for fifteen years, leading a challenging program dedicated to academic rigor, but which was also fun. His teas and biweekly Chowder Hours, which featured guest speakers in Gilpatrick House during a lunch cooked by someone from the faculty or another Denison Community member, were open to one and all. For his efforts he was awarded the Charles and Nancy Brickman Distinguished Service Chair at Denison.

Former Director of Admissions at Denison Stuart Oremus recalls the formation of the Honors Program as “typically Tony.” “He would say something in a seemingly gentle low key way, like ‘Well, what would you think about....?’, which was the sure prelude to your doing something well beyond what you had ever envisioned that you would do - and then, he made you feel like you had done something really special - when, in fact, he had done it, through enlisting your aid.”

She elaborates, “I think of Tony and I think of steel behind that light and engaging manner — sheer steel — as he persuaded and cajoled others so effectively, always in the service of fighting for and building the program - he had the vision and the energy to develop an amazingly comprehensive and outstanding Honors Program which has helped change the face of Denison.”

The dream of the founder persisted, but the institu-

tion's views of the program shifted, and The Honors Program went off the books in 2010.

THE GREATER PROFESSION

In service to the profession, Tony also served greater higher education. He was an evaluator for curriculum projects on four occasions for The National Endowment for the Humanities and served as an external consultant for Honors Program development and philosophy department evaluation. He is a founding member of the National Association of Fellowship Advisors. He has presented recent Honors Program narratives to the American Council of Academic Deans and at the National Meetings of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

OFF CAMPUS

As this article is being written, Tony is searching for the perfect Chrysler Sapphire Silver Blue Metallic Crossfire, an elusive quest. His 1972 Fiat Spider has served him well, even in winter, when he can often be seen driving to campus — with the top down if the temperature is above forty degrees — from his home two miles toward Columbus. Friends speculate as to where the Crossfire will be housed, as Tony (and not Marianne) is a collector of vehicles rather than a discarder. A graduate school acquisition, a World War II vintage jeep, has resided at the back of his garage since the Lisska family moved to their current house in 1976. Two Mini-vans still sit in the driveway, a living reminder of the humiliation that they caused for Megan and Elin, who in their teenage years did not hesitate to let their father know how hopeless his taste in vehicles had become and how negatively it reflected on them. Marianne notes, "Recently, however, he has relented and added to the collection a car that is only half minivan, the other half being SUV. It and the Jeep and the Fiat have pride of place in the garage. The minivans cower ignominiously all winter in the driveway."

THE GRANVILLE COMMUNITY AND THE GREATER COMMUNITY

Long interested in the well-being of Granville, in



Tony and Marianne with daughters Megan, left, and Elin, right.

2004 and 2008, Tony served as president of The Granville Foundation. His dedication to humanity has led him to long-time active work in the local and state Democratic Party. He has been the recent Chair of the Licking County Democratic Party.

Tony's intellectual avocation is regional history, and Granville and Ohio in general have been the great beneficiaries of that interest. With spillover passion from his professional endeavors, he involved himself in the Granville Historical Society. He served on the Board of Managers for fifteen years; and most importantly, with Flo Hoffman, began this quarterly, *The Historical Times*, which in 1991 won a state historical award. Tony and Flo had to spend several meetings convincing the Board of Managers that an occasional article in the local paper would not meet their ambitions. He served as an editor for twenty-five years, finally retiring with the final issue of 2010.

He has published over forty articles on local history, the most widely read, which treated an early 19th century Roman Catholic Bishop who worked with Native Americans, appeared in Oxford's *New Blackfriars* (1993). Tony has also given over thirty presentations on topics in regional history. In 1985, he published *A History of Aquinas College High School* and is presently completing *A Short History of East Columbus, Ohio*. He authored *An Illustrated History of the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club*, which was published in 2007.

For Granville's Bicentennial in 2005, a group of



Tony leads a Granville Historical Walking Tour. The Boater was his father's wedding hat, a Stetson purchased at Lazarus. Tony muses, "He probably shot a month's salary on it."

thirty-four members of the Granville Historical Society worked together to write and produce a three volume history of Granville, entitled *Granville, Ohio, A Study in Continuity and Change*. Officially Tony was an editor of Volume 1, the narrative history of the area broken down into nine parts and entitled *A Purpose, A Plan, A Place*. This book contains a chapter that he co-authored; Volume Two, entitled *Reflections and Impressions*, contains two of his historical essays. This three-volume set received a national award from the National Association of State and Local Historians. It was clear to those involved in the project that the driving force of the editorial side of the entire project was Tony Lisska.

In her letter of nomination for Tony for the Professor of the Year Program, then president of Denison Michele Tolela Myers wrote, "I will let Dr. Lisska's resume and other letters attest to his extensive scholarship and community involvement. However, I would like for the ... selection committee to take special note of the *continuing* nature of his activities. He has remained active in teaching and in scholarship, in campus and community affairs, long after a less energetic

person might have rested on his laurels... Anthony Lisska has established an outstanding record of accomplishment at Denison and in the larger community as teacher, scholar, administrator, and citizen. His dedication to students has been extraordinary, and his contributions to the College have been prolific."

And above all, for Tony, Philosophy Matters. An excerpt from the *Providence* alumni magazine illustrates the point well and we are running it as a free-standing article. (See opposite page.)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom Martin is a former president of the Granville Historical Society and served on the Board of Managers for fifteen years. He was General Publication Committee Chair for the 2005 Bicentennial Histories and wrote an article for Book II. Currently he chairs the Publications Committee for the Historical Society and is Editor of The Historical Times. He chairs the comprehensive capital campaign for the Robinson Research Center. The author spells Tony Lisska as a Granville Walking Tour guide, and both are certain that no two tours are ever the same.

The Making of a Philosophy Teacher

Why does this award-winning philosophy professor think students should study philosophy — Aquinas in particular — today?

“There are several things that philosophy does. If it is taught correctly, it can be a great aid for cleaning up cobwebs. You really have to think clearly and critically. You learn how to justify an argument,” explains Lisska.

“Second, it helps in terms of moral theory. I’ve always thought that moral theory was very important, particularly in an age of ethical relativism. And I think there are certain postmodernist tendencies out there where whatever one might happen to feel or prefer is automatically justified. And that’s just a bad argument. That argument of basing claims on feelings just won’t go anyplace. Aquinas’ position of ethical naturalism is so important right now.

“Thirdly,” he continues, “it helps us to be able to sort out and evaluate the various political issues of the day. Aquinas tells us we have to make the arguments clear; we can’t accept things just on authority. When Martin Luther King wrote from a Birmingham jail that ‘an unjust law is no law at all,’ he was quoting Aquinas there as well as St. Augustine. It seems to me what you have in the natural law tradition is the sense that there should be a moral foundation for law.

“Not that everything immoral should be made illegal. But rather that there needs to be a moral foundation for law in some way. Since World War II and the Nuremburg trials, when you had such a sense of crimes against humanity, that concept doesn’t make any sense at all unless you have natural law in the

background,” he adds.

Lisska has no difficulty teaching the works of an ecclesiastical philosopher at a secular institution. “The study of Aquinas is just burgeoning outside of ecclesiastical circles these days,” he says. “Since the second Vatican Council, work on Aquinas has been taken much more seriously by secular philosophers because somehow the ecclesiastical trappings of favoritism have been cast asunder. Vatican II opened up the range of philosophical alternatives available to Roman Catholics. And then a lot of Aquinas was bagged — I thought incorrectly — but a consequence has been that folks outside the Roman Catholic tradition have jumped onto the Aquinas bandwagon in ways which 30 or 40 years prior would never have been thought possible. There’s a lot of very creative work being done. What I worry about a bit,” Lisska adds, “is that Roman Catholic philosophers are tending to circle the wagons and not really pay full attention to all of this work.”

Reflecting on his career as a philosopher, professor, and scholar, Lisska credits the Dominicans for getting him thinking about the work of Aquinas and taking philosophy seriously. “Had I not gone to Providence College,” he says, “God knows what I would be doing now. It really helped me set my sights on the academic world and pointed me in the direction I’ve never diverted from and which to me has been a very satisfying life. I’ve probably been a bourgeois bureaucrat for too much of my career in academia, but it’s really just ‘doing philosophy’ that I’ve enjoyed most.”

— From *Providence*, the magazine, Winter '02

GRANVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW MEMBER FORM

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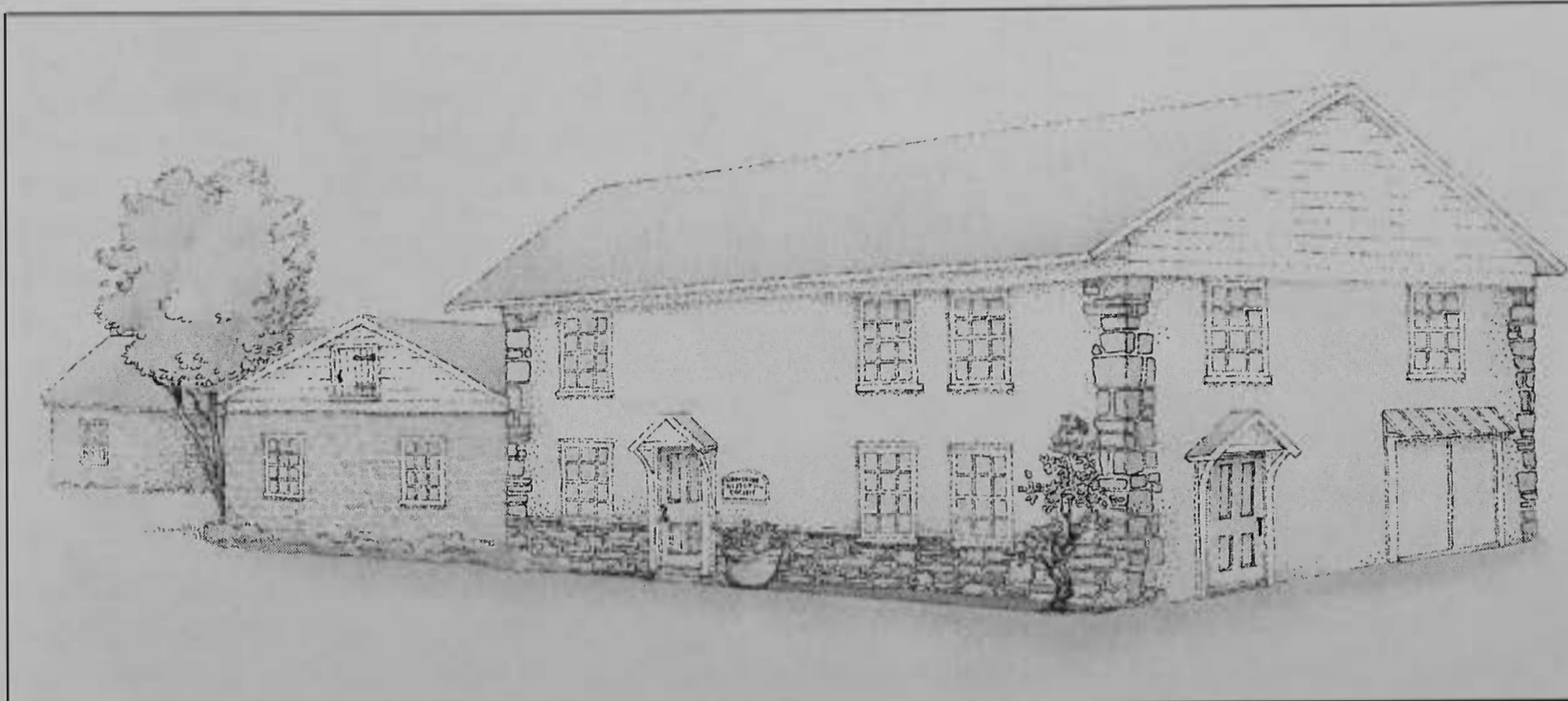
Membership fee for 2011 is \$35 per household

MAIL TO: Granville Historical Society, P.O. Box 129, Granville, OH 43023-0129

Please make your check payable to the **Granville Historical Society.**

Thank you for your tax-deductible membership.

COMING SOON: THE ROBINSON RESEARCH CENTER



The two-story Robinson Research Center will be built onto the rear of the Granville Historical Society Museum.

‘Preservation’ and ‘presentation’ spaces for years to come

The Granville Historical Society is the beneficiary of a wonderful gift from the Hubert and Oese Robinson Trust, which will help enable the building of the Robinson Research Center, visible in this artist's rendition by James G. Hale.

The Society is conducting a capital campaign with a goal of \$750,000 to fund the building and an endowment to ensure its optimal use. The Robertson Company will begin construction in the summer.

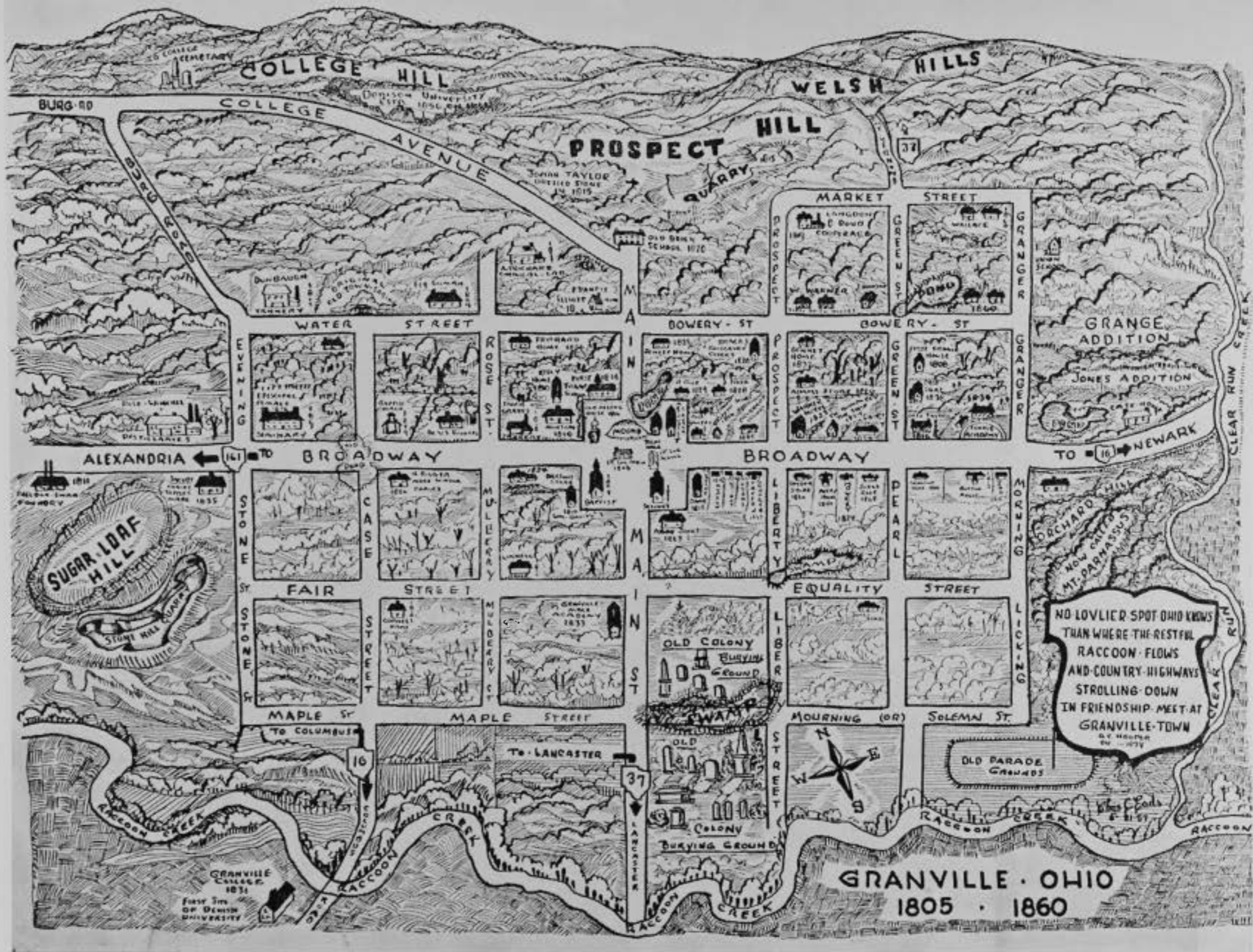
Each of the building's three floors will be 1,500 square feet, and will be constructed to specifications for preservation and presentation of records and artifacts.

Highlights of the Robinson Research Center will be a ground floor exhibition and presentation space; and on the second level, a reading room where interested individuals may conduct research on the records, schedules, photographs, articles,

and other printed matter held in the Society's archives, which will also be housed on that level.

The building will alleviate the severe space limitations that were highlighted by the delivery of the excellent and extensive archival material from the Robinson Life Style Museum when it closed. Lack of storage and exhibition space limited the Historical Society's ability to receive many of the artifacts from the Robinson Museum that were desirable, but some of the best of the holdings will be on display in the new building.

Cynthia Cort, president of the Granville Historical Society, expressed profound thanks to the trustees of the Robinson Trust for the generosity of the gift. To Rick Price, the lead trustee, she said, "Your gift has put us well past half way to our goal and will ensure that we will have a museum quality structure to preserve and present the history of Granville."



NO LOVELIER SPOT OHIO KNOWS
 THAN WHERE THE RESTFUL
 RACCOON FLOWS
 AND COUNTRY HIGHWAYS
 STROLLING DOWN
 IN FRIENDSHIP MEET AT
 GRANVILLE TOWN
 BY HOOVER
 1877

GRANVILLE · OHIO
 1805 · 1860

New editor, publications panel guiding your *Historical Times*

After twenty-five years under the editorship of Tony Lisska and the able assistance of many other members of the Granville Historical Society, the editorship has passed on to Tom Martin, who is supported by a very able Publications Committee composed of Lyn Boone, Maggie Brooks, Stewart Dyke, Bill Kirkpatrick, Chuck Peterson, Marianne Lisska and Dick Shiels. The committee's duties will include serving as the editorial board for *The Historical Times*.

Adopting the title of Granville's Bicentennial History three-volume set, which fell under the purview of a special ad hoc editorial board from its inception in 1992 until publication in 2004, *Continuity and Change* are the aims of the new committee. We intend to focus perhaps more on the Twentieth Century than the Granville Historical Society has in the past, but just as that focus has not been exclusive for the Society, neither will a new one be for *The Historical Times*.

We plan to do a good deal of biography, and have taken the risk in this issue of profiling a living person. We will look at foibles, cranks and crackpots, too. Sometimes failed dreams and projects have as much impact on a town as those that succeed, and we will look at some of those, too. In the next issue, the aerial tramway rises from the musty files from 1922.

Over time, we hope to write biographies not only of people who were born in Granville and lived a substantial number of years here before moving on to make an interesting life — or the opposite, individuals who moved here and lived a significant period of time building memorable lives. In addition, we want to continue to write biographies of buildings, businesses, institutions, and organizations.

From time to time we will attempt to address the question of the specialness of Granville, something that is certainly obvious to our detractors, and something that may have to do with our beginning as a planned community, or our theological origins in a tradition of the Elect, or perhaps the degree of affluence or education in the community — or a combination of some, all, or none of these speculations.

Our overriding mission is to make history interesting. We plan to accomplish this in at least two ways: one is to relate local events to national movements and ideas, and vice versa. For example, the Arbor Movement in the 1870s would not be of great interest to most readers unless it were linked to the change in street names in Granville from the names the founders had given them into the names of flowers and trees.

Also, we will endeavor to write our history in ways that will be interesting to outsiders, compelling enough that one does not have to be a long-term resident to enjoy an article and gain insight from it.

— Editor, Tom Martin



THE HISTORICAL TIMES

Celebrating its 25th year of publication by
The Granville Historical Society

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Address comments, suggestions or queries to:

The Granville Historical Society

P.O. Box 129, Granville, OH 43023

740.587.3951

office@granvillehistory.org

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