Keeping History Alive: A Sabbatical Case Study

Joan Plungis
Society of Ohio Archivists
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GIRLS’ TOWN 5th ANNUAL VICTORY FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, JULY 10, 1949
11 A.M. UNTIL 11 P.M.
TOP OF NORTH BEND ROAD HILL
THESE TWO BEAUTIFUL CARS - GIVEN AWAY

1949 PONTIAC SEDAN
COUPE, STREAMLINER

1949 CHRYSLER ROYAL
SILVER ANNIVERSARY
4 DOOR SEDAN

FREE EXPENSIVE ATTENDANCE GIFTS GIVEN AWAY EVERY HOUR
• SIXTY COLORFUL BOOTHS
• DELICIOUS CHICKEN DINNERS

RIDES - GAMES - THRILLS
• AMPLE FREE PARKING ON GROUNDS
• FREE BUSSES FROM COLLEGE HILL AND CARTAGE FROM

HAPPY DAYS AT GIRLS’ TOWN...
THE PROGRAM INCLUDES A WELL-PLANNED SCHEDULE OF
COUNSELING, EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RECREATION.
RESIDENTS AT GIRL’S TOWN WILL
SHOW HEALTHY NORMAL HABITS AND ADAPT FOR
TOMORROW’S CITIZENS...

VISIT THE HONORARY CITIZENS BOOTH & REGISTER FOR GIRLS’ TOWN CITIZENSHIP

source: Archdiocese of Cincinnati Archives
NORTH BEND ROAD LANDMARK, Girl’s Town, is to be sold. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd have made the decision to sell the buildings and the 80-acre plot of ground and seek a smaller unit of operation which will be geared to current child-care programs. Sister Mary Clare, provincial superior, noted that the century-old buildings at 525 North Bend Rd. are old and costly to maintain. A trend toward group homes and a shortage of personnel were also factors in the decision, she noted.
source: Cincinnati Enquirer, March 2001
the complicated world of twenty-first century historical research
the need to be creative and resourceful in ferreting out sources where none seem to exist
mind mapping to generate access points and keywords

https://tinyurl.com/l4jhev
Do You Remember Girls' Town?

If you lived in Finneytown before 2001, you knew the landmark building with the green dome on North Bend Road across from St. Xavier High School. Until 1972 it was the site of a home and educational program for girls and convent of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Starting in 1945, an annual summer festival held there was well-known to local residents. The buildings stood from 1887 to 2001, when most were razed. The site is now used for St. X playing fields and parking lots.

My name is Joan Plungis and I'm an associate professor at the University of Dayton, researching the history of Girls' Town as a sabbatical project. I would like to speak with individuals who have memories, photographs, festival memorabilia, or other objects from Girls' Town. I hope to use such materials for an online exhibit and articles I plan to write.

Please e-mail me directly at jiplungis1@udayton.edu, or phone 937-229-4245 if you can help. Thank you!
thinking beyond text when presenting research results

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Questions?

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