

Schiller Park Passes Centennial With No Celebration Planned

By JOHN LONG
Of The Dispatch Staff

One of Columbus' most famous parks, in one of Columbus' most famous sections, is 100 years old this year, but it appears the anniversary may slip by without a celebration.

This is the centennial year of Schiller Park, in the heart of German Village, but city officials have said no centennial observance is planned.

IN APRIL, 1867, the City of Columbus bought the 23½-acre tract of woodland known as Stewart's Grove from David W. and William G. Deshler and Allen G. Thurman. The grove which at that time was just south of the city, had already been a popular picnic spot for at least 25 years. It cost \$15,000, according to Osman C. Hooper's "History of the City of Columbus, Ohio."

If one word had to be chosen to characterize Schiller Park's first century, it would be the word "change."

The name of the park was changed from Stewart's Grove to City Park in a christening ceremony on July 4, 1867. In 1891, the statue of the German poet Schiller was donated to the park by German-born Columbus residents, and not long after that they succeeded in getting the city to change the name of the park to Schiller.

The park got its fourth name in 1918, when, in a wave of World War I anti-German feeling, it was changed to Washington Park. Several years after the war it was changed back to Schiller and has remained that, even through World War II.

CHANGED, TOO, are the park's physical features.

German Village old-timers recall many landmarks that are now gone: a bear pit with real bears, two fountains, a boat house on the lake, at least two old bandstands, a limestone grotto, a wooded island in the lake, and a rustic bridge.

Philip Kientz, of 788 S. 5th St., who has lived 81 of his 88 years in the Schiller Park area, recalls that in the 1880s the park was surrounded by pasture and had an eight-

foot board fence around it to keep the cows out.

EACH ENTRANCE had a sharp crook in it that would let a person through, but not a cow, Keintz said. The wooded fence was one of the first landmarks to disappear, in the 1890s, Kientz recalls.

City Insurance, Pay Discussed

By DAVID CAIN
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About 60 city employes attended a meeting in the City Council chamber Sunday night to discuss the city's proposed pay bill and the city's subsidized hospitalization plan for city employes.

Hugh Dorian, city treasurer, told the group, which had been expected to number 200 to 300, that the new insurance plan being offered with an effective date of Aug. 1, would be "equal to or better than any group health insurance in the state."

IT WAS THE 25th in a series of meetings to acquaint city employes with the proposal which would "keep every benefit of the old plan and add many more," Dorian said.

The group was almost entirely made up of non-uniform city employes. Dorian commended the police department's attendance at previous meetings but when a show of hands indicated no firemen present he commented, "They're consistent."

Columbus firemen are involved in a protest movement to boycott the hospitalization programs which would require a 75 per cent enrollment of all city employes.

THE FIREMEN want the city to pay the entire \$24.08 monthly premium for the family plan. The city has offered to pay \$7.93 of the total — the amount for single person membership.

"But we've gone as far as we can go."