

# Two Tremont Friends for Life

## TREMONT HISTORY PROJECT



Both were born in 1921, they went through Tremont School kindergarten, grade school, junior high, Lincoln High School, then followed each other to Kent State

University. They are Mollie Barber Alstott (above on left) and Ann Duly Guisewite (above on right).

These two ladies were both editors of the Lincoln High School's LINCOLN LOG. Ann pursued Journalism as her career choice and Mollie, Education. As Feature Editor, Ann wrote an interesting article in the September, 1937 LINCOLN LOG about Mollie, her sister, Irene (also a student at Lincoln) and their mother's trip to Europe that summer in which they visited their mother's village. The village from which Mollie's mother emigrated was called Wolodz. They had spent the summer with Mollie and Irene's grandparents. It was a "Ukrainian" village in an area of Austria-Hungary (now Poland) near what became Czecho-Slovakia and now Slovakia.

As Ann wrote of the girls experience, she told of one-half acre farms and days of backbreaking toil to gain but a meager existence. The existence included bartering eggs and other produce, two or three-room houses with only the barest essentials of furniture, but also having room for the animals, and an upstairs hayloft which served as sleeping quarters.

Mollie and Irene spoke of how church services were part of each and every celebration. After even a simple celebration honoring an anniversary of the local village library, churchgoers would then move to the church square which, in their village, was next to the beautiful San River.

Beneath the gaiety of these occasional celebrations, there was an undercurrent of dissatisfaction and contempt. There were government police watching every move and listening to every comment. The locals almost longed for war in the hope that they would be free of domination. Both old and young longed to be free of oppression as a minority ethnic group. Mollie and her sister knew that the freedom and comfort of the USA was what they preferred.

Mollie and her sister came home to their parents store on Professor (now Edison's). Ann's parents came from a village in Austria-Hungary, which became Czechoslovakia, and now Slovakia. Early on they lived on Starkweather (in the building of what is now Wine and Design) where they had to share a bathroom with other families.

The family then moved to the house next to Hotz's where Ann's father had a shoemaker shop in the front. Then they moved to what is now Polish Pulaski Post No 30 at the corner of W. 11 St. and Starkweather Ave. and had a tavern and lived upstairs. Ann took her family to her parents' village in Slovakia after its freedom from communism and its split from the Czech Republic.

Mollie and Ann both met their husbands while at Kent State. Mollie's husband, Louie Alstott joined the Navy to serve in WWII and became a pilot. He and Mollie were stationed in Guam. Ann's husband, Bill Guisewite served in the Army in the European Theater. Mollie and her husband, while in Guam travelled to many countries and they also lived in San Diego, Grosse Ile, MI and in Washington DC. Mollie taught in the Parma School District and over the years did much volunteering. Her greatest love as a volunteer was at the Cleveland Zoo for 35 years. (By the way, she golfed until the age of 87 years young).

Ann and her husband established an advertising company in Michigan and had three daughters including Cathy who became well-known as the author of the Cathy comic strip which ran for over 30 years in various newspapers across the country.

Ann currently lives in Florida and loves yoga which keeps her young. These life-long friends still get together every year or two. Both Mollie and Ann still love Tremont and continue to cherish their memories of growing up in the neighborhood.