

# ArtWorks

## LUDLOW ART CARPETS

### SURVEY RESULTS

#### Esquire Theatre

1. Four words: Rocky Horror Picture Show. I first experienced this raunchy midnight show when I was sixteen. I was very reluctant at first and almost walked home because I didn't want to go, but I was very glad I stayed, it was like nothing I ever experienced before and not a night that I will soon forget. It's safe to describe it as chaotically amusing. Everyone that went got along with each other and had the freedom to express themselves in any way they saw fit. The Rocky Horror Picture Show provided the chance to stay out late with a different sort of crowd and experience a wild and fun night. It is definitely my most prominent memory of the Esquire Theatre.

2. We moved to Clifton because it was a walking neighborhood. We could walk to a hardware store (long gone: restaurant and dress store); library; two or four drugstores; a butcher (we never used) a florist; two shoe stores and shoe repair; a jeweler; dress shop; knitting store; two grocery stores (IGA and Kroger's, now CVS), and a movie theater. There was one screen, and if you sat at the back of the screen there was the possibility of hearing everything happening in the lobby, just a few feet away. But it was a BIG screen. When the Save the Esquire campaign began, the claim was that there would always be Family or Children's films. This lasted a brief time, and was a disappointment: the niche it carved for itself was Art/Independent Films. This helped it survive. But it was not the Neighborhood Movie House it had claimed it would be.

#### Graeters

1. Graeter's has been in my life since I was brought into this world. Throughout my entire junior high and most of my high school career, my friends and I would stop into Graeter's everyday after school, even if none of us had any cash. We went so frequently that we came to know all of the employees personally and we were dubbed, by them, the Graeter Rats. Often we would scrounge for a dime to get ten cents worth of Sour Patch Kids and split them among us. When my favorite manager left, she gave me her Graeter's hat as a memory, I still have that hat. It was one of the gray ones before they

switched to the mustard yellow. My friends and I have even colored pictures for them to hang in the windows and created a new sign for the tip jar. I will always remember my favorite ice cream parlor. It belongs in my most treasured memories.

2. My first visit, as an incomer, graduate student new to Clifton and Cincinnati in the mid-70s: the store was half its current width. Only 'older' women worked at the store, and they were known for being ....cranky. I was warned. I was also told to ignore their attitude, because the ice cream was worth it: 'order something with 'chips.' Mocha Chip was my first Experience. A revelation. A few weeks later my boyfriend, now my husband, came to visit, and after the requisite visit to Skyline I took him for his first visit to Graeter's. I waited while he began his cone, with a "What's the big deal?" look. Then: "There's a chocolate chip AS BIG AS A HOUSE in here!" He was hooked. Fast forward: our son won the drawing contest one year. Many cones, sundaes, pints, birthday cakes have been consumed. Pints of Graeter's is the gift we take or send to out-of-towners. It is always welcomed. With glee.

#### Ludlow Garage

1. Ludlow Garage. Now that is significant to Ludlow. When I was young, my mother brought me into the Garage and the images that stayed with me were lava lamps, cool furniture, and Paulo's dog. As I got older, my friends and I would hang out in the entrance to the Garage and sit on "the Couch", the most comfortable plastic couch I have ever laid my behind on. I was nearly brought to tears when they replaced "the Couch" with some other piece of not-so-cool furniture. I still think that they should have turned Ludlow Garage into a jazz club and/or roller rink. Haha.

## Public Library

1. When I was younger, I was placed into the Public Library's summer reading program and I remember making a tissue paper flower and spraying it with perfume to give to my mother . . . I love my library, and I make special effort to pick up a "I love my library" sticker upon each visit.

2. Story time and later puppet club with Elaine Harper. My children 'grew up' with story time at the library, the reading program through the summer, and graduated to Puppet Club with Elaine Harper. Puppet Club was a very nice, neighborhood activity. Children went (still do) to so many different schools, an activity at the local Library brought different people together. The library was not then 'remodeled' to its current size, and everything was very compact. Everyone fit in (there were no computer stations).

## Roanoke Apartments

1. I don't know much about the Roanoke, I just know that they were in a movie and are rather famous. They have come to be quite a landmark in my Ludlow visits. Ludlow would just not be Ludlow without those apartments.

## Keller's IGA

1. Oh Keller's, I have spent many a grocery trip there and everytime I have had the urge to go down the ramp that leads to the basement. It's always open and I have to resist running down the conveyer belt that leads there. I just content myself with wearing my shoes that have no traction and "ice skating" down the isles. Yay for Stouffer's Mac and Cheese and Jarritos Soda!

## Clifton Area

1. I have lived in Clifton all my life, I'm eighteen now and about to leave for college. It's going to be the hardest move of my life . . . Clifton is fantastic. I love Clifton for it's diversity and free-style living. It's ethnic and friendly and full of life. One of the things I will always remember about my neighborhood is the people. Specific 'Cliftonites' will forever remain in my memory: Mr. Mister the window cleaner, the man with the wheel chair and pipe who always sits outside IGA (he always says hi), the Orange Crush man who lived in Burnet woods, the man with the hat and cane that always walks everywhere (dubbed the Walkie-Talkie), the man who always sits on the benches in front of the fire station, the man who always had a dog and who yells at cars, the lady who leaves slices of bread out for the birds, "Street Vibes,

one dolla'!" man, and many others. Clifton is hands-down the best neighborhood ever.

2. Ludlow Avenue is now, to some, a Restaurant District, around the Esquire Theater. When I arrived in Clifton in 1976 the business district was a village of stores and I thought I could walk to graduate school, and walk to (almost) every shop I needed. Two groceries (Kroger's and IGA), plus a butcher; two bakeries (Graeter's and Virginia Bakery); UDF (moved to Clifton); Restaurants... Skyline, Proud Rooster, Busy BEE!!!!; dress shop(s); drug stores...were there 2 or 3? one called itself an apothecary; shoe stores...one strictly for women (Foot lites? and a traditional shoe store, with shoe repair); hardware; LIBRARY; a 2nd hand store(?now the Chiropractor's), which is where I bought the greatest waffle iron, except one of the grills tended to fall out at the wrong time; New World foods/New World Books; a florist; a picture framer; a Fire Station (very handy); a jewelry store. We never walked beyond Skyline: the other side of There. Can not explain it. Several GAS/SERVICE STATIONS were within blocks of each other: plus Kennedy Motors(now Dewey's pizza). UDF is in on gas station shell; Bruegger's took the corner of another station; Ambar is in the spot of one gas station; and the other ghost floats over the Skyline parking lot. One remains....thank goodness. A Real Service Station. And a funeral home. and a savings & loan. and banks. But it is all different now. The Hardware guys said, People go to the bigbox stores, and only want to buy lottery tickets. So there was less on their shelves, and we went to the big box store. Now a hardware store is coming to the Garage, surely the least visible space on the Avenue. The Swing Park. Off Ludlow in the island adjacent to the Jewish Cemetary. It is just big enough for a few children; for a few families; for some frisbee; for a dog walk. It attracted us when we needed a place for a 'swing'. It is wonderful to see families from all over use this parklet---Clifton is so diverse.