



# The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

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## THE FALL OPEN HOUSE



Ed Carlson presents a memorial plaque to the Beightol family.

A Tribute to Don Beightol and the celebration of the renovation of our new 1930's kitchen and accession room was a tremendous success. One of our few special afternoon events attracted 70 guests. Once again, we cannot express our appreciation enough for the interest the community has shown us during this past year. The Beightol Family expressed their heartfelt thanks for the love shown by the Society for their Husband and Father. Mrs. Beightol noted that to Don, the Society was his second home and they will cherish the plaque honoring his service given them at the Tribute. The new kitchen brought raves of praise and continues to do so each day we have guests. Many are saying: "This is just like our kitchen at home when I was a little girl." The old appliances, old tins, aprons and even the little child's table and chairs set up for tea have received their share of accolades. The Accession Room gives people the impression that our method of book keeping and storage is totally organized and that is the impression we want to give you.

But.... let's say we know where everything from the past few years can be found at our fingertips. But... beyond that... my, oh my... it is here, but our improvements have issued in some movements of items that may take days to find (items donated before 2000). Frank Hoffman and his small crew are trying hard to register and store all accessions properly. This is a monumental job!! Good Luck Frank!!



Ed Carlson with Dick Stevens and Dara Shirey with Bob Robbins

## GRANTS SOUGHT

The Executive Committee authorized several letters to be sent out by our secretary researching the availability of grants for the year 2009. The officers wish to keep the interest and the momentum shown by our volunteers to increase the building's use by our community. It means completion of room improvements for storage and display on the second floor and beginning the work on the basement for the same. The Long Range Planning Committee, in cooperation with the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, have carefully scrutinized the needs (without any frills, I might add), let out bids, received estimates and are prepared to answer any questions asked by those groups who might have pertinent questions. Thus far we have received favorable responses from Senator Bob Robbins and Representative Dick Stevenson. These two legislative leaders have consistently shown an interest in working with us to provide the community with a place to enshrine their history. By the time you receive this Newsletter, we will have completed their grant request forms. Again, we thank them for the opportunity to submit our needs to them. At the present we are looking for \$50,000 which is the amount needed to complete our long range planning. We have also figured in the continuous help by our community volunteers. Pray for our 2009 needs, that funds will be available and our economy bounces back.

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Since this is my last President's message for the year 2008, I must admit my term in office has, at times, been trying based on the time schedules that must be met. I'm one of those people who wants things completed on time and I tend to put a lot of pressure on myself and those around me to accomplish a task in a timely manner. I often put things off until the date they are due. As I tell my children, "Remember your priorities". This philosophy can cause one a lot of self pressure. I have thoroughly enjoyed every individual I've met at the Society. I have relied heavily on their suggestions. They have made my term in office extremely enjoyably. I continued to learn from my community. I wish to thank those who have expressed praise for my style of leadership and ask that I run for President for a second term. As I have expressed many times before, I enjoy being a follower. A responsible leader must recognize the talents of those around him and make use of them. The GCAHS is loaded with talent and creativity. I simply tapped it. Our community has a very unique history and still has a number of people willing to share the personal history of their family's impact on the Grove City area. During my term in office, I renewed their dream held when the Society was formed, and asked their leaders to continue to dream. Using my own ability "to brainstorm" I convinced others to do the same. As a leader I wanted them to take action on their dreams. Check over our list of new events. I urged them not to tarry but to begin work on their dreams. As a result we have a furnished publication's room, a renovated kitchen, an accession room, a usable renovated second floor and a community related organization with a growing membership. I have always believed in the "power of the pen" keeping your membership well informed by every internal and external means available. The increasing sized Newsletter has cost us more, but it is impossible to count its benefits. As a leader, I know you must have two or three confidants who encourage, keep you informed and hold you up when times get tough. I was lucky to have three: my wife Jean and my friend Joe Monteleone were appointed by me as Advisors to the President. The third advisor had no official title but was a confidant that I could count on for information and help. This advisor was Mary "Skip" Sample one of the Society organizers and its first President. These represent the type of qualities I look for in leaders. In September I appointed Linda Beatty and Joe Monteleone as my Nominating Committee. I took a couple of minutes to explain my desired leadership qualities. They have produced a list of nominees that I am extremely pleased with to keep up the growth pace of this Society in 2009. Be sure to send back your ballot and if you think we've missed a leader, please feel free to add their name. I'm looking forward to a great 2009 and working with the new officers as your Past President. On behalf of my wife and I, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a fabulous New Year!!



### SEMINAR SPEAKERS

We wish to thank the seminar speakers of 2008 for volunteering their time and talent, without compensation, to benefit our Second Floor Renovation fund donations. They reminded their audiences that history is interesting and fun. They were as follows: **#1 Lillian Reeher**, author of Wolf Creek Legacy, giving a seminar on "The Importance of Family History" at the Historical Society on 9/8/2008. **#2 Dr. David Amour** giving a seminar on "My Uncle James Armour: a Mercer County Civil War Soldier with the 211th Pennsylvania Regiment" at the Historical Society on 9/15/2008. **#3 Dr. David Dayton**, author of Mid the Pines, giving a seminar on "The History of Grove City College" at the Historical Society on 9/22/2008. **#4 Violet Covert**, author of Reflections of a Grass Widow, lectures on "Sally Hastings's 1809 Journal of Crossing the Alleghenies" at the Historical Society on 9/29/2008. **#5 Ann Dayton** giving a seminar on "The History of Grove City with an emphasis on Area Coal Mines" on 10/6/2008. **#6 Dr. Thomas Armour** giving a seminar on a "Brief History of the Grove City Aluminum Business with an Emphasis on Arthur Armour's Role" on 10/13/2008. **#7 William Philson**, Executive Director of the Mercer County Historical Society, giving a lecture on "Mercer County Native Americans with an Emphasis on the Grove City Area" on 10/20/2008. **#8 Earl and Jackie Van Norman** in period dress for their lecture on "Pennsylvania Moravian Lifestyle with an Emphasis on the Henry Family" on 10/27/2008. **#9 Mary "Skip" Sample** giving a lecture on "The Origin & History of the Grove City Historical Society and Museum" on 11/3/2008. **#10 Ed Carlson**, author of Christmas Along the Hemlock Trails, as Santa Claus for his lecture on "Memoirs of Santa Claus & Stories of Christmas" on 11/10/2008.



#1                      #2                      #3                      #4                      #5                      #6                      #7                      #8                      #9                      #10



### To Answer A Question

We removed the ivy (actually decorative grapes) vine off the East side of the building to protect the mortar between the bricks from being loosened and pulled out as the vine roots grew. A special thanks to Linda Beatty, Joe Monteleone and our man on the ladder, Glenn Buchanan for a job well done.



### Polacheck Window Display

The Society wishes to thank the Polacheck family for sharing a small portion of their Aluminum Christmas Tree collection with us. Their collection was featured last year in "The Pittsburgh Magazine." The collection is currently on display in the Society front windows and lights up each night at 7 PM.



### We Asked For And Received

We now have a cream separator. Thanks go to Carol and David George's contribution of Carol's father Dean Rodgers. It is from The Delaval Separator Co. of New



York - Model No. 12. Check it out. It's in the kitchen and adds a rural touch to our '30's look. Often they were found in the farmer's summer kitchen, on a porch or later in the milk house.



Past president, Thomas Armour, poses with the cow elk he shot up in the Northwest Colorado Mountains, Nov 1, 2008 at 9:15 am. The seven guys on in the party came home with 5 elk. Great hunt!



The anniversary ribbon cutting for Olde Town Grove City



The Class of 1969 visits the society.

### SANTA CLAUS COMES TO THE GCAHS

Ho, ho, ho! What a jolly old soul! Ed Carlson, as Santa, decides who has been naughty and who has been nice. 1st Row: Willie Caldwell, Skip Sample, John Sample 2nd Row: Georgia McIntire, Adelyn Kostelnik, Marty St. John 3rd Row: Lillian Reeher, Megan Reeher, Jason Reeher 4th Row: Linda Beatty & her grandchildren, Chet Coulter, Theo Karfaz



Every year, Mary "Skip" Sample teaches Grove City Middle School students about Grove City's history and gives them a tour of the building.



The night Dr. Thomas Armour spoke, he was flanked by his wife, Lois; his granddaughter, Logan; daughter, Marsha Cummings; and his father's lifelong employee, Jim Vincent and his wife Ruth.



Joe Monteleone steals a kiss from a Sarah Palin look-a-like at the Olde Town dedication parade.

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