

Historical Happenings

The Newsletter of the Grove City Area Historical Society

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ARCHIVIST

When I talk about all the activity that goes on at the headquarters during the winter, I am being very serious. In January I received a letter from Jonathan Riddle, a recent graduate of Grove City College, asking if we would be interested in having him work as an archivist. He had a proposal that he was going to present to Dr. Jewell for funding for this project. The board discussed the proposal at our January meeting and decided it sounded like a good idea, although we did not have any money to put into the project. If the College, however, wanted to fund this, great! Jonathan had worked at the headquarters last year transcribing the diaries of Ranals Craig, written when he was in the Civil War.

Jonathan went on his way, and I heard nothing for several weeks. One day, I received a call from Dr. Jewell. He had met with Jonathan and he was willing to give him \$7,000 toward his salary, if we could match the money. He also asked that the College be given copies of any material pertaining to them. Since we had no money allocated for such a project, he suggested I contact a benefactor. I told him we did not have one. He suggested I contact Joe Montelone. I contacted Joe and he agreed to give us the other \$7,000.

Jonathan arrived in town this week and is beginning work. He has been in contact with Judy Silva, who is an archivist at Slippery Rock University. She is helping him with the project. We have a lot of material that was given to us by the Ketler Family and Jonathan is going to begin with these holdings.

When you see the checking account balance, you will note that it is \$14,000+. That is because the \$7,000 from Grove City College has been deposited into the checking account.

We thank Grove City College and Joe Montelone for their support of this young man. This project will be a valuable asset to our holdings and to Grove City College.

EVENTS TO REMEMBER

OPENING OF SOCIETY - APRIL 12, 2011

ANNUAL BANQUET - APRIL 16, 2011

SIDEWALK SALE - JUNE 3 & 4, 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I begin this newsletter announcing the spring opening of the **GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, the trees outside my window are bent with snow. I can see the robins, however, as their red breasts stand out on the white blanket that covers our back yard. We may blame this current snowfall on the groundhog who predicted an early spring, but we must be realistic and admit that this is just an old-fashioned Western Pennsylvania winter coming slowly to an end.

While the weather outside is dismal, the atmosphere at the headquarters is buzzing with activity. We have had two work days getting the building cleaned and new displays set up for the coming year. We also had a surprise birthday party for Gary Forsythe, who is our "main man" or building superintendent. While Gary was busy patching nail holes and painting, others were getting things ready for his party. He was appropriately surprised. **We all wish Gary many happy returns of the day.**



Over the winter much work has been done on the second floor. Rooms that have been full of accessions dating back to our beginning were cleared and items moved to their permanent homes. This took many hours of work. Maryanne McClinton, Linda Beatty and Jean Helfinstine spent many cold hours moving items and making a list of what was being moved so that Frank Hoffman and Monica Ondrusko could change the locations of each item in the computer. Slowly the rooms are taking shape.

When we took out our Christmas window, we decided to show off some of our art collection by displaying paintings by local artists. We have had many compliments on the window, including inquiries about whether the paintings were for sale. We have a very nice collection of local art that we are proud to display. If anyone has a painting by one of our artists and would like to donate it, or give it to us on a permanent loan basis, we would love to have it. We have many walls where we can show off the paintings.

With summer coming, there will be class and family reunions. If you are associated with one of these events and would like to bring your group to the headquarters for a tour, contact me. We love to have people come to see our local treasures. As more people know about our society, our memberships increase. And, memberships are the financial backbone of our organization.

In the past I have discussed with you our finances. Revenues from our memberships cover about half of our expenses. The rest of our money must come from new members or donations. I have suggested that when you send in your renewal, an extra donation would be appreciated. Many of you have done this. Last year our donations from all sources totaled over \$3,000. That money is very important and we thank you for your generosity.

HELP WANTED

The Grove City Area Historical Society is looking for help. We would like volunteers to interview people for our oral histories. We have many people from whom we want their stories. Thus we need your help. If you are interested in interviewing people about the history of our community, please let us know. We have the equipment, but, we need people willing to do the interviews.

WONDERFUL ACCESSION

Accessions come in on a regular basis. Every once in a while something very interesting arrives. Most women love to look at cookbooks and try new recipes. However, when a cookbook comes in to the historical society from a cook for Grove City College, it is an entirely different matter. There are some recipes that came from Dick Ballentine whose grandmother Lucy J. McConnell was the head cook at Ketter Dorm in the 1940s and 1950s.

BAKED BEANS FOR 600

9~~4~~ beans
2 cans catsup
1 can tomatoes
1 gal syrup
2 handfuls mustard, bacon or ham

RICE PUDDING FOR 300

7 lbs. rice
9 doz. Eggs
8 gal milk

PANCAKES

9 qt. flour
1 cup baking powder
5 tablespoons salt
3 cups sugar
14 eggs
1 3/4 gal milk
1 1/2 qt melted butter

DUTCH HAM LOAF FOR 600

35 lbs. meat

3

BROWSE

If you want to spend a pleasant afternoon, stop in our library and peruse our set of 3-ring binders put together by John and Marge Hummel. You may even find an article about yourself!

A BIG THANK YOU!

Many people are donating their time to organize our second floor rooms. Their efforts are greatly appreciated...

Gary Forsythe
Bob & Ellie Smith
Joel Bigley
Linda Bennett
Joan Adams Kopnisky
Beth Black
Ed & Jean Carlson
Charles Bestwick

Maryanne McClinton
Bruce Smith
Jerry Mershimer
Heidi Adams
Bev Montgomery
Kay Dannels
Dave & Carol George
Erma Burrows

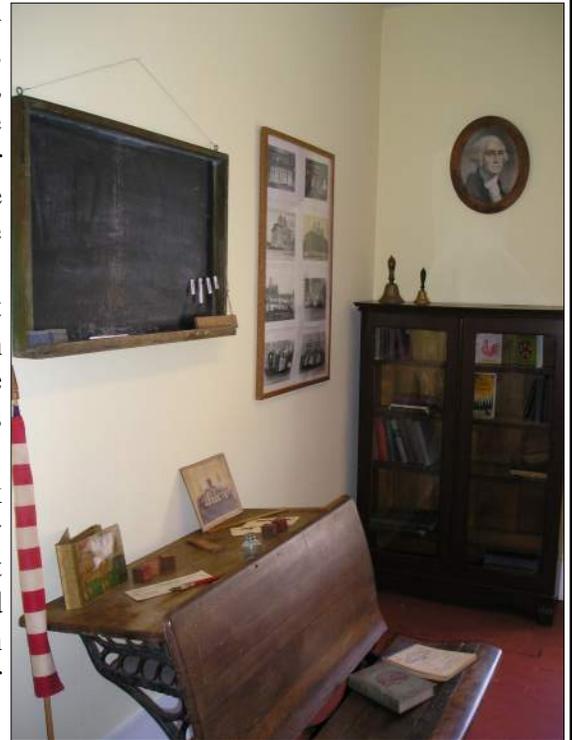
Anne Dayton
Rose Stote
Gene King
Peggy Grand
Beth Jolly
Darlene Shaner
Eleanor Covert
Bill Gordon

SECOND FLOOR RENOVATIONS

If you studied the financial report carefully, you may have noticed that the "Second Floor Grant Account" has \$.60 in it. In other words, we are out of money to do any more work on the second floor, although there still are a lot of little things to be done to finish the rooms. Most of the rooms have a committee that is responsible for decorating and/or arranging items that have been donated. The people working on each room are having a good time. They arrive with scrub buckets, hammers, nails and ideas. Each room is unique.

We had a grant for \$25,000 to "do" the second floor. This meant dry-walling, painting, building displays, etc. One beautiful addition is in the Veteran's Room. We have oak display cabinets. The historical society paid for the material and Randy Voltz donated his labor to make the cabinets. They are wonderful.

Another interesting room is the Agriculture Room. Ed Zajak donated barn siding taken from the barn on Rt. 208W on the Benny and Joan Adams farm. We also have large murals on the walls that were donated by Prime Outlet. They had these murals in the food court. When they redecorated, they gave us the murals complete with the frames. Two of the murals are of farm scenes and are perfect for the room.



If you are interested in Grove City Sports, leave yourself a lot of time to spend in the Sports Room. Bill Gordon donated this room and has spent hours gathering information on athletes, both past and present. If someone from Grove City was an athlete, they are most likely in this room. If you have any sports memorabilia, newspaper articles, pictures, etc., it can be added to this area.

However, with \$.60 left in our account, we cannot do much more than organize what we have in the rooms. If you would like to make a donation to a specific room, we would be very grateful. The rooms are: Grove City College, Churches, Veterans, Community Organizations, Industrial, Grove City Schools, Local Businesses, a typical Hotel Room, Grove City Sports, Agriculture,

Scouting, Maps and Real Estate, as well as Men's and Women's clothing.

You are probably wondering what we did with all the money. Last summer a lot of work had to be done on the exterior of the building along the alley. The bricks had to be pointed, fascia replaced and new guttering put in place. This was necessary because water was coming through the bricks and into the second floor rooms. So, a lot of the money to redo the upstairs had to go on the outside.

If you are interested in making a donation to a specific room you may do so. DONATIONS MAY BE MADE TO THE GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND SPECIFY A ROOM.

When we open on **APRIL 12th**, be sure and take time to visit the second floor.

THIRD ANNUAL SIDEWALK SALE

JUNE 3RD & 4TH

We are again going to have a Sidewalk Sale, but a bit earlier in the summer. The last two years we made over \$1600, which goes a long way to cover our annual budget shortfall. So, begin to look for nice items that you can live without. We would like each member to contribute at least 1 antique or nice item to the sale. As you do your Spring Cleaning, keep this in mind. We need the money, and all of us can part with some of "our sacred cows!" Again, no clothing please.

Items can be brought to the society at any time.

FINAL GRANT

This week we received what is probably our final grant. This one is from State Representative Dick Stevenson for \$20,000. The grant is for refurbishing the basement. We were relieved to have the grant come through since there are such big budget cuts. We were told that no grants were being honored except those that had signed contracts - and we had a signed contract. The money came through on Monday.

We have serious structural problems in the basement that must be addressed. Additionally we are going to cement the floor in one room, rewire parts of the basement and put a new ceiling in one room that we are turning into a classroom.

Of course, all this work getting done means we have to move "stuff" around. We are very thankful for the BARJ boys of George Junior Republic. They are our musclemen who move items upstairs and downstairs.

Over the years we have been fortunate to receive grants from Bob Robbins, Dick Stevenson and Alcoa Aluminum. Without all this financial support our museum would not be anywhere near as nice as it is now.

I think the main problems will have been addressed by the time this grant is finished, and we should be able to continue on with the maintenance of our building without major financial delays.

ARMSTRONG CABLE CHANNEL 19

A short time before Christmas, I had a phone call from Larry Berg of Armstrong Cable. He said that he would like to see our historical society as they were considering doing a feature on our museum. After meeting with him, he indicated they would like to do the show. It was taped just before Christmas but they decided not to run it until spring because we were closing the next week. They will be running the program sometime in the middle of April just before our opening. I do not have the schedule, however, they will be running the show several times a day for several days. They often run local programs around the dinner hour, so keep your eyes open. A week or so ago, they were once again in Grove City taking pictures of the Cunningham Wheel Display and our window. The program should be interesting and provide lots of good publicity.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

“LEAVE A LEGACY”

Fiscal responsibility is a very big part of any successful organization. It is particularly important for our organization whose main source of revenue is membership dues. Of the many goals that we have, establishing financial solvency is the big one. Several years ago, the board voted to put \$100 a month, plus 10% of any fundraiser, into an endowment fund. At the same time, we also established an Executive Fund and put \$100 a month into that fund. This fund will someday be used to underwrite the cost of an Executive Director. When several hundred dollars accumulates in each fund, the monies are put into a CD. Recently, when CD rates dropped so low, we were frustrated because we were not earning any money on our investment.

An accountant suggested that we should invest our money with the GROVE CITY FOUNDATION. We explored this idea, only to learn that the Grove City Foundation was probably going to be merging with the Community Foundation of Western Pennsylvania. We met with Larry Haines, their Director, and Amy Atkinson, his Associate Director. We were impressed with them and their operation. As a result of this meeting, we established 3 funds with the Community Foundation. The purpose of the recently established ENDOWMENT and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FUNDS is to give support to sustaining the mission of our organization. An individual can contribute to the historical society's ENDOWMENT FUND or EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FUND by giving an asset of value during your lifetime or through your Will. Your generosity leaves a legacy for our community. Our hope is to build both funds so that at some time in the future we can draw on the interest generated by these funds as a means of supporting our organization and hiring an Executive Director. If you have any questions, or want further information about this financial move, you may contact one of the board members or the Community Foundation at 724-981-5882 or email amy@sv-foundaton.org.

BUDGET

CHECKING	\$14,100.41
MUSEUM SHOPPE	\$ 1,354.01
SECOND FLOOR GRANT	\$.60
GROVE CITY FOUNDATION ACCOUNTS	
ENDOWMENT FUND	\$11,080.00
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FUND	\$ 9,500.00
ARTHUR ARMOR FUND	\$ 1,235.17

We also have a small fund that we call the ARTHUR ARMOR FUND. This fund can also receive donations. The goal of this fund is the preservation of the legacy of Arthur Armor. This money will be used if a book or monograph is ever written about his work in the field of hammered aluminum.

Grove City Area Historical Society

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Museum and Gift Shoppe Hours
Tuesday-Saturday 12:00PM - 3:00PM

Website:
www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org
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To join or renew your membership, please send your payment along with your name, address, phone number and email address to the Grove City Area Historical Society.
Make Checks Payable To: Grove City Area Historical Society
Founding and Life Memberships are payable over 3 years.

DONATIONS:		\$
Student / Senior	\$10.00	
Individual	\$20.00	
Family	\$40.00	
Corporate	\$50.00	
Life	\$500.00	
Founding	\$1,000.00	

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: Founding

GCAHS is a tax exempt charitable 501c3 organization. All membership contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

PLEASE CIRCLE: new member renewal change of address

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____
EMAIL _____

YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS