

111 College Ave. Grove City Pa 16127

The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org 724 - 458 - 1798 gcchs@zoominternet.net

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November 2016

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Reflections of 2016

It is so hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another year. It seems to be so true that as one grows older, time speeds by faster and faster! As I reflect on this past year at our Historical Society, there are many highlights of my first year as president that come to mind. Here is a sampling.

We received the honor of inclusion in the list of the top 30 historical preservation societies in the United States by "Recollections," a northern Michigan company specializing in producing period clothing. We produced several outstanding window displays including a display of Wolf Creek's treasures, a military display honoring Grove City's armed forces veterans, and a display of Grove City's past and present artists. We hosted many successful events including our spring orientation and luncheon at which we welcomed five new volunteers, our annual picnic in the park, the Cash Mob visit, our participation in the Art Walk, and our fall speaker series. We are making progress in our social media presence, including our new Facebook page that has been very active and well-received, and our newsletter that continues to receive many compliments on every issue's interesting historical articles.

An unknown author once wrote, "Life is never so busy that there is no time to serve." None of the above accomplishments would have happened if not for all the dedicated volunteers who continue to give of their time and talents in serving our Historical Society and the Grove City community, and all the members who support our initiatives. Thank you!

Please mark your calendar to stop by the Grove City Area Historical Society for our annual Holiday open house on Saturday, December 10th from noon until 2 p.m. I look forward to seeing you!

Kathy Jack



Local Business Disappearing from Our History

A sad fact about Grove City's history is that some of it is being lost forever. Some of the businesses that once lined Broad Street have already been forgotten or their history is slowly becoming a mere vague memory. I hope to restore at least a small part of that history so we can share it with future generations.

One such business was a popular soda fountain between the late 1940's and the early 1960's known as Candyland. Candyland was an important business that was slowly being forgotten. Now thanks to Linda Thomssen and Eleanor Scott and those who responded to the call for information on Candyland, we have a nice piece of our history restored to us. *Thank you for all of your help!*

The Candyland article is a two-part series. The first part is the history of Candyland written by Linda Thomssen and can be found in this newsletter on page 5. The second part will be in the April Newsletter.

The next business that I am going to research is Wardle's. If you have photos or memories you would like to share about Wardle's please contact me at the Historical Society or by email at cathycoulter1@yahoo.com. Also, if you have a business that you feel is disappearing from our history let me know and I will see what I can do to change that.

Photos of 2016



Doug Bashline
"The History of Bashline Hospital"



2016 Annual Picnic
August 8th



Art Walk:
Lillian Reeher
Page 4



Art Walk: Chris Guarnieri
Page 4



Cash Mob on Page
Page 7



Chris Guarnieri
"Grove City's Daughters of the American Revolution"



The Museum Shoppe
John Horn at the counter



Lillian Reeher & Skip Sample
"GC's History and Homes"

A Place for Memories

by Chris Guarnieri

The Pool Teeter Totters Pump Swings Steese's Concession Stand The Girl Scout Lodge Deer Pens
Ice Skating Baseball Fields Basketball Courts The Geese Fountain at the Pond.

All of these conjure memories for many of us whose leisure time has been spent at the Grove City Memorial Park. We've enjoyed picnics and birthday parties at the pavilions; we've paid our respects at the Veterans' Memorials. We've hiked, walked our dogs and ridden our bicycles and horses there. A few of us even helped Mr. Hunter feed the fallow deer there.

Additionally, we communally celebrate the beginnings of summer and autumn with special events, but rarely, do we consider how the Memorial Park came into being.

Shortly after World War I ended, with many soldiers returning home with stories of the great parks in New York, London and Paris, Grove City's councilmen began to consider the possibilities of a park for our community.

In February of 1920, a proposal was made by the Commercial Club that a park be created and the town council appointed councilmen Wilson, Albin and Montgomery to become the Commercial Club Park Committee. On a motion by Councilmen Reed and Montgomery, 1 mill was set aside for "Park Purposes" over the next year. The Park was to have its own commission, under the jurisdiction of the burgess.

Over the next four weeks two sites were offered to the committeemen, one west of town, the other just east of Wolf Creek. During the March 5th (1920) council meeting, the Commercial Club Park Committee told Council that Trustees of Grove City College had agreed to give the land east of Wolf Creek to the borough as a park. (Keep in mind this land remains, today, a steep hillside between Main and Pine streets.) The trustees proposed to "give" the land to the borough for a period of ten years, during which the borough would spend \$2400 in improvements the first year and \$500 annually thereafter for the term of the agreement, which was for ten years. Today, \$2400 equals \$30,034. in buying power. The \$500 annual fee equals \$6,257. The trustees were asking a sizeable improvement! In today's value the terms of the agreement would equal \$58,715.

Councilmen Reed and Albin accepted the proposal without a guarantee the agreement would be renewed. The motion actually passed. However, during the next two weeks another proposal was offered to the committeemen which was presented to council, March 19th, 1920.

Certain members of the Commercial Club held options on the land owned by Tasa Coal Company, west of the Borough. A motion was made by Councilmen Montgomery and Wilson, stating, that if certain citizens of Grove City would donate the land known as Tasa Coal Company Holding, to the borough for park purposes, free of all encumbrances and expenses to the borough, the council would agree to accept it.

A vote was taken with Councilmen Wilson, Montgomery, Kuhn and McCune voting for the motion and Councilman Albin voting against. This motion carried and Grove City Memorial Park was created.

To mollify Councilman Albin, Councilman Montgomery and Council Chair Reed, appointed a committee of 3 (Reed, Wilson and McCune) along with Attorney McBride to confer with President Ketler regarding the "Park on the College Property" which was proposed to be given to the Borough. It wasn't until nearly 100 years later that anything came of this proposal.

Over the next month, as you enjoy viewing the "Scarecrows in the Park", give a silent thank you to the men whose foresight set these serene acres aside for our enjoyment.

The History of the Soda Fountain

by Cathy Coulter

Soda fountain drinks that were so popular in Grove City During the 1940's -1960's time period can trace their roots back to the carbonated water that came from volcanic springs. A device was created to artificially carbonate water but it was not until 1832, that bottling systems and fountains were used.

The soda fountains that many remember today such as Grove City's own Candyland, were first introduced in 1903. But as with many things, progress was made and the end of the soda fountain era came about in the 1960's with the commercialization of bottled soda and ice cream became more popular.

History of one of Grove City's own soda fountain shop *Candyland* can be found on page 5.

How We Became a Certified Haunted Building

by Skip Sample

Several years ago I received a telephone call from the Pennsylvania North West Hauntings Association. They had heard stories of the “ghosts” in our building and they wanted to know if they could bring in audio and visual equipment and do a ghost haunting. Not really knowing how to respond, I said that it would not be my decision but a decision that the board would have to make. When I approached the board about this they were not enthusiastic but gave grudging permission for the group to come in. The only requirement was that they would let us know what they saw or heard.

They said they would arrive about 11 p.m. and stay most of the night. Since there were going to be people in the building during the night, I notified the police as to what was happening. They had a good laugh at the “haunting” that would take place.

The group came several times. Each time they told us what their findings were. They brought their equipment and played conversations for the board to hear. One conversation was with a little girl. She said she was four years old and had a brother. This actually tied in with a story that Alec Trepasso later told about the “young girl” he was playing with when visiting the headquarters as a child. The adults told him there was no other child in the building that day.

One of the times that the group was at the building an *Allied News* reporter, named Christine, was with them. The next time the group came Christine was not along. During the visit the question was very clearly asked “Where’s Christine?” That exchange later shook up Christine and made believers of many of us.

At the end of the visits the group made to the headquarters they brought the certificate that hangs in our lobby designating the GCAHS as a “Certified Haunted Building”. They assured us that our building was one of the most active places they had visited.

Art Walk

Grove City’s yearly Art Walk occurred on September 17th this year. The Historical Society’s participation included two of our very own volunteers - Chris Guarnieri and Lillian Reeher. Both woman are talented artists and they were able to set up their art work for the day.

Chris Guarnieri: I have always loved painting: the swish of the brush on the canvas; the smells of linseed oil and turpentine; the colors. Colors are such a gift! Yet, I have no patience for the process of drying as it interrupts creativity, so I gravitated towards charcoals and pencil sketches. But always, the colors called to me. Quilting helped, but the single dimension of the craft was too static, though the array of colors available certainly tempted me to collect as many as I could. In 1996, I discovered bobbin lace and, in due course, began to design pictures. Like charcoals, the medium allowed for creativity, sales, and teaching opportunities. One gallery owner who happened to be a degreed artist, saw potential in my designs and invited me to join a fiber arts group she had created. Each month we challenge each other to create a piece using certain artistic guidelines. One challenge was to create a dimensional image. I chose to make a portrait of my cat, and discovered I could “paint” with fabric. No drying time! I further discovered that anything which can be done with oils, or even watercolors, can be done with fiber - except that lovely swish of brush against canvas. Having won my first national contest this year, I would like to enter more juried exhibitions, but mostly, I want to continue to grow as an artist, and, perhaps, to teach what I have learned. Art is a gift which needs to be shared.

Lillian Reynolds Reeher: I am a storied expressionist artist, an intuitive artist. I work in watercolors, acrylics, handmade paper, textiles, beading and mixed media. Most of my work has a story and most of my stories have art. I believe words and images are inseparable. After convincing my pianist mother to let me study with Margaret Williams rather than continue with piano, I can distinctly remember my first watercolor lesson. Miss Williams sat me down in front of a Pine Street fountain and when my loaded brush touched the paper with vivid watercolor, I heard music, my mum’s Chopin translated into pigment. Following years of teaching K-12 and at Penn State and Thiel, writing and editing for *Allied News* and Sharon Regional Health System, I am writing and painting just for sheer pleasure (mixed with a little pain). I compete in regional juried shows, this summer taking first in mixed media at The Confluence, sponsored by The Hoyt, New Castle, and first place in painting at the Associated Artists of Butler County. I recently took Best of Show at the Greensburg Art Gallery. It’s very satisfying to coup a prize, but for me, it’s the creation of a piece that drives me. My goal is, and has always been, to produce works that no one has done before and to that end, I never like to do the same thing twice. I particularly enjoy painting local buildings (my reality) and creating elves and strange mixed media (my fantasy). I spell off making art with writing history.

Coal Mining coming to town!

By Shannan Coulter

Mercer County had a more than generous amount of coal underlying much of the rich farmland. However, the coal was of little value until some mode of transportation was made available for hauling it to the industrial sections, hence the opening of the canal which connected the Ohio River with Lake Erie and solved the problem. So, in 1844 the very first barge of coal was floated up to Erie.

For years the coal production centered in the Shenango Valley, convenient for the iron and steel industry, which had begun and was doing very well there. However, it was realized that if the industrial plants wanted to grow and continue, new coal fields would have to be opened, but there was no way of getting the coal to the place it needed to go. This then prompted leaders in the steel industry to expand a rail route and in 1865 a charter was granted and finally after 7 years, it was completed. Thus, the coal mining industry moved into first place as a prosperous industry in this area and by 1906 about 300,000 tons of coal were produced in Pine Township, giving jobs to over 1500 men and their families.

The entrances to each of the larger mines were surrounded by blocks of houses, the number depending on the size of the mine. There were also company stores and usually a country school. About half of the students were from the mines (known as the Miners) and the other half were from the surrounding farms (the Buckwheats) and they didn't mix very well. A single house would shelter several dozen men as they slept and ate in shifts. Most of the miners were southern European, while the owners and foremen were usually English or Scots-Irish and lived in town.

Mules would haul cars on underground tracks, and much of the area's lumber went into the posts holding up the mine roofs. On the surface narrow gauge railroad tracks striped the landscape, as the owners hauled the coal to the Grove City railroad for shipping. As wood stoves gave way to coal furnaces, many of the farmers subsidized their incomes by hauling the coal into town with their teams of horses.

100 years ago:

At the age of 30, Weir Ketler was hired for the position of President of the Grove City College. He kept the college going despite the many hardships that occurred during his presidency.

Candyland

by Linda Hughes Thomssen

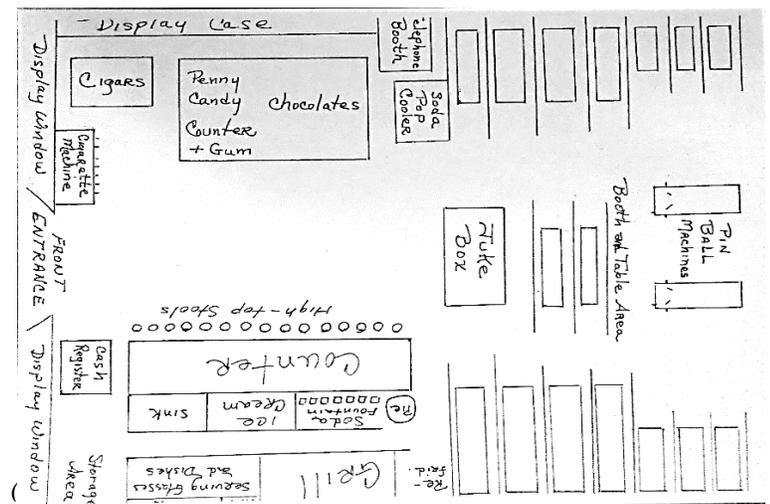
There was a Mecca in Grove City! It was the "in" place to be for everyone of any age. It was at 112 Broad Street, just south of the railroad tracks. The building still stands today.

Do you remember? If you hung out in GC between the late 1940's and early 1960's, you certainly will. Yes...the Mecca was Candyland! If you were a young kid walking from school, you might have stopped for some penny candy. If you were a business man, you could get a great cup of coffee or a sandwich at lunch time. If you met your friend for some homemade ice cream or a soda, you remember. After school, did you stop to play the pinball machines or get your cigarettes (only 25 cents)? Where did you go to enjoy a good cigar, buy a box of chocolates, or just to "hang out"? It was all available at Candyland.

I had the opportunity to be raised in Candyland. My dad and mom, Vic and Leandra Hughes, ran Candyland for all my years growing up, and if you remember being there, you were (and still are) my friend. We grew up together in Candyland!

The store opened early in the morning and stayed open until nine or ten every night. You could always share a moment of friendship and something good to eat while you were there. My dad and mom worked tirelessly seven days a week to make this possible.

Dad made all the ice cream for Candyland. My favorite day of the week was when Dad and I would go to the creamery (just northwest of the railroad tracks), get the big silver cans of cream and then pour that luscious thickness in the ice cream maker in the basement. All different kinds of flavors would come out of that wonderful machine, and I always got to taste the first sample. We also made all the chocolate sauce in a huge copper pot over a big flame. I got to stir the chocolate with a wooden spoon until it got thick and made incredible hot fudge for all the sundaes.



Drawing Courtesy of:

Linda Hughes Thomssen

Continued on page 6

Candyland Continued from page 5:

Then, do you remember all the soft drinks you could order? Cokes and Cherry Cokes, but my favorite was the Suicide You would hold the glass and put one squirt of each of the many flavors, then fill the glass with soda water. Voila, a Suicide – it was fantastic!

There was a grill, where Mom and Dad and the wonderful gals who worked for us created all kinds of sandwiches. Burgers, grilled chicken, tuna and egg salad, and BLT's. My Grammie (Elsie) Gills made incredible pies fresh every morning. As a customer, you had three different choices every day and I always hoped for a leftover, but usually there were none. The long counter and stools, grill, soda fountain area, and ice cream were on your right as you entered Candyland. On the left was the penny candy, cigarette, and cigar counters and the big glass case for all the chocolates.

At Easter, Christmas and Mother's Day, my mom would stay up late many nights hand decorating the Easter eggs. Maybe you remember receiving a beautiful Easter egg with your name on it?

Beyond the candy counters on the left was the telephone booth and bottled soda pop case. Sitting in the middle of Candyland was the jukebox. Pretty much all the time, the jukebox was playing with the popular songs of the day. Even a bit of dancing would take place in front of that jukebox.

Behind the jukebox were booths where friends could sit together and we took your orders. I took your orders even when I was very young. In fact, the first words I remember writing were "Coke for Table 4". Behind the booth area was the pinball machines. That was the place to be! For many of us, we spent hours playing those machines until late at night.

Many a night, I had to go to bed upstairs in our apartment and listen to everyone still having such a good time in the store below. My dad, mom, my Grammie Gills, my brother Ron (most all of you would know him as Buzz), and my Great Grammie (Nellie) Graham lived in the big apartment above Candyland. We all had jobs to do for Candyland. Buzz and I had duties every day to help for noon hour. We were expected to hustle home quickly from school to fill the water glasses, make sure the pop cooler was filled, the tables and booths cleaned and the penny candy counter stocked. On weekends, we had to scrape all the gum off the floor. To this day, I would never drop my gum on the floor or stick it under a table!

If you ever had the opportunity to work for my dad and mom in Candyland you were indeed family. You would come upstairs to the apartment to go to the bathroom and maybe stay a minute to listen to me practice my violin. And, sorry, there was no bathroom in Candyland. It sure wouldn't make it today with business codes but I don't ever remember that being a problem.



Matchbook is Courtesy of
Cindy Perry Anderson



Our Candyland gals were just awesome! I remember most all of you vividly for we spent a great deal of time together. Thanks for making Candyland so special. And thanks to all of you who spent time Candyland as a customer and friend.

Unfortunately, no one in our family can seem to come up with any pictures of Candyland. If you have any we would love to see them!



Photo Courtesy of: Harold McCracken

Cash Mob

The Historical Society was visited on August 20th by a cash mob of 7 people. They were organized by the Grove City Chamber of Commerce. They received a tour of our museum. The cash mob generated \$187.00. Some of the items that were purchased were \$20.00 gift certificates, books, a flower pot, and stationery.

Did you ever wonder, while watching the Olympics this year, if Grove City Pa, in some small way, could claim its place in the history of the Olympics? The answer is yes, it can. Two people from Grove City, in fact, found themselves involved in the Olympics for the Atlanta Ga. Games in 1996. They were Darin Powell and Brian Beil.

Darin Powell is the son of Phil and Sue Powell. His participation took the form of being an athletic trainer during the 1996 games. Darin Powell was to work with the participants in wrestling and judo and to provide first aid and emergency care.

The other person from Grove City involved in the Atlanta Ga games was a 15-year-old boy by the name of Brian Beil. Brian was chosen to carry the Olympic torch in Erie Pa on June 10, 1996.

Member Holiday Open House

It is getting to that time of year again when we participate in the Grove City Downtown Christmas event by having an open house for our members. The date this year for our open house is set for December 10th noon to 3 pm. Plan on stopping in to enjoy refreshments and visiting with other Historical Society members. Come and enjoy the end to another successful year.

Museum Shop Christmas Gifts

When out shopping for the holidays please keep in mind that our Museum Shop has many items that would make wonderful gifts for your family and friends including gift certificates in any amount. We have a nice variety of books for sale such as the *Wolf Creek Legacy*, other history books, and even a book on genealogy. Fleece sweatshirts are also available to keep your family and friends warm throughout the upcoming winter.

But we have more than that. We also have magnets, art prints of Grove City scenes, crocks, and note cards designed by local artists - all would make wonderful gifts for the holidays.

Stop in and see what wonders and memories we have in store for your family and your friends. Don't forget to add a few to your own wish list.

*We Wish You and Your Family a Very Ho
Holiday Season!*



YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PLEASE CIRCLE: new member renewal change of address

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Founding \$1,000.00 Life \$500.00 Corporate \$50.00 Family \$40.00

Individual \$20.00 Student / Senior \$10.00 Donations: \$ _____

Yes, I would like to volunteer. Please contact me about what opportunities are available to me.

Founding and Life Memberships are payable over 3 years.

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, Box 764, Grove City, PA 16127

Make Checks Payable to: Grove City Area Historical Society

GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Museum and Gift Shoppe Hours
Tuesday – Saturday 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Our last day for this year is Dec.10th
724-458-1798

Website:
www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org
Email: gcahs@zoominternet.net

**BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS
IS INSIDE.**

Volunteer

Life as a volunteer is very interesting and has a lot to offer you. There are so many different kinds of things a volunteer can do besides greeting visitors and giving tours of our wonderful museum. There is so much more that needs to be done in order to be able to keep the Historical Society running and open for the public. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact the Historical Society.



While you are thinking of the end of year tax planning, please remember that contributions and memberships to the Historical Society are tax deductible. If you are also looking for a way to honor someone special, a donation in their name or a membership for them may be just the thing.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

To Serve 3-Year Terms January 1, 2017 – January 1, 2020

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE CANDIDATES BY YOUR VOTE.

_____ John Horne, Grove City Borough

_____ Harold McCracken, Member at Large

_____ Mary Ann Collins, Springfield Township

_____ Rev. Robert McCreight, Member at Large

_____ Other Nomination (prior consent should be obtained)

Board of Directors

Name	Representing	Began	Current ly Serving	Term Should Expire with Election in:
Gary Forsythe	Grove City Borough	2009	3 rd Term	January 2018
Dr. Tom Armour	Member-at- Large	2009	3 rd Term	January 2018
Kathy Jack	Grove City Borough	2015	1 st Term	January 2018
Lillian Reeher	Pine Township	Sept. 2015 – replaced Linda Bennett mid- term	1 st Term	January 2018
Cathy Coulter	Member-at- Large	2016	1 st Term	January 2019
Marty St. John	Member-at- Large	2016	1 st Term	January 2019
Jean Waugaman	Member-at- Large	2016	1 st Term	January 2019
Linda Beatty	Liberty Township	2010	3 rd Term	January 2019
Laurie McCandless	Wolf Creek Twp.	2013	2 nd Term	January 2019
Nominated Slate of Candidates				
John Horne	Grove City Borough		1 st Term	January 2020
Rev. Robert McCreight	Member-at- Large		1 st Term	January 2020
Harold McCracken	Member-at- Large	Nov. 2015 – replaced Heidi Adams mid-term	1 st Term	January 2020
Mary Ann Collins	Springfield Twp.	Sept. 2016 – replaced Wendy Ewen mid-term	1 st Term	January 2020

PLEASE RETURN THE BALLOT BY JANUARY 12, 2017

- By mail to Grove City Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 764, Grove City, PA 16127;
- Deliver in person to the Historical Society and place in the designated box in the library;
- Or by e-mail to gcahs@zoominternet.net.

