



THE SOUTH PARK HISTORIAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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AUGUST 2018

GRAND RE-OPENING CELEBRATED



A large crowd attended the Society's grand re-opening of the museum on June 16 the Society. Guest speakers for the event included PA Rep. Rick Saccone and Reene Kohlman who represented U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb. Attending also was Andrew George of Kulak Architectural Associates and Warren Merritt representing Consol Energy. Light refreshments were served and the guests were invited to view the many displays.

HISTORIC FLOODING LEAVES MUSEUM BADLY DAMAGED

The museum located on Pleasant Street, took four years to renovate and expand, and sadly, only four days until a flood occurred on June 20th that caused devastation. The damage sustained was more than \$35,000.

Volunteers spent hundreds of hours over the past several years at the museum, working to add new features to further celebrate and conserve the rich history and tradition of South Park Township.

The museum is closed to the public until further notice.

DON'T MISS A GOOD TIME !

Our 8th Oldies Dance Bash is on November 17 at the Library fire hall. Doors open at 4:30 PM. Tickets are \$35 and all seats are reserved. This is always a sold-out event. Don't wait until November to buy a ticket and to have a good time.

\$250.00 - Awarded every half-hour from 5:30 to 9:30

\$500 - Awarded every hour from 6:00 to 9:00

\$1,000 - Awarded at 10:00

Plus another **\$5,000** if this number wins the PA Evening Lottery on November 24, 2018.

Festivities include a delicious hot dinner, free Yuengling beer, soda, coffee and dessert. You are welcome to bring your own bottle, mixers and snacks. There will also be 50-50 raffle ticket drawings and our fabulous Chinese Auction with all new items. Each item valued over \$100.00.

Call Joan Lane at 412-835-0946. No tickets will be sold at the door. Proceeds benefit the museum flood restoration fund.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

OUR SUMMER HIATUS IS OVER

The Society took a break in July and August for their summer hiatus. Our next meeting is on September 18 at 7:00 pm at the Library fire hall. Our guest speaker is Warren Merritt who will present a very interesting program on the "The History of Mining in South Park Township".

COMMUNITY DAY

The Society is participating in the South Park Community Day celebration on Saturday, September 15 from noon to dusk. The theme is "South Park Pride." As in past years, the Society will have a booth in the Agricultural Building. We invite everyone to stop by and enjoy our displays.

NEWSLETTER CHAIRPERSON

The Society is pleased that Erika Ciaramella has volunteered to be the newsletter chairperson for the "Historian." Joy Marquis has served in this position for many years and we thank her for the outstanding work she has done. The Society is grateful that Erika has volunteered for this very important project.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank You to the following people who have given generous donations to help repair our museum.

Lawrence Barnes, Drummond and Marie Beach, David and Joan Buchewicz, Kevin Donahue, Judy Hruska, William Kortz, Lori Lane, Len and Donna Marraccini, David and Anne Oyler, Michelle Gwynn, Brian Lucot, Susan Lucot, Mr. and Mrs. Whetsel, Thomas Whetsel, Kimberly Zilles.

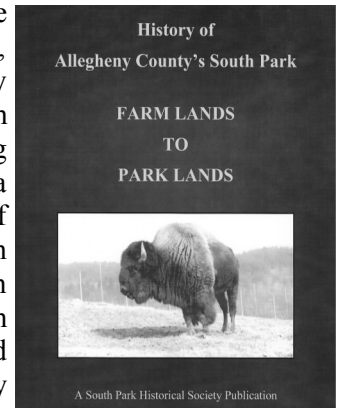
Thank You to Mr. Paul Gitnik for the generous donation of \$20,000.

BUILDING CHAIRMAN

After many years as Building Chairman, Ed Almasy has stepped down and the Board approved Ed Knaus as the new building chairman. Thanks to Ed Knaus for volunteering for this position. Ed Almasy has been Building Chairman since 2009 and has performed his duties with a wealth of knowledge. He was also instrumental with the grant application and other matters.

FARM LANDS TO PARK LANDS

Book Chairman Ruth McKee reports that the Society's book, "History of Allegheny County's South Park - Farm Lands to Park Lands" is selling very well. The book is a comprehensive history of South Park from its inception to current times. Illustrated in the book are photos from original houses, buffalo and Indian caretakers, military activities, maps, swimming pools and sports, county fairs and much more. A detailed time line tells of the parks progress and additions.



The book is available at Society meetings, the South Park Township Library or Woods Café on Corrigan Drive in Allegheny County's South Park. The price is \$20 (tax included) and can be shipped anywhere in the United States for an additional \$3.25. Books can also be ordered by calling 412-835-9529 or 412-655-4104 or email Ruth at jimru@verizon.net.

HELP THE SOUTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY WRITE ITS NEXT BOOK

Remember South Park in the 1970s? The Bicentennial ... Disco ... The Dynasty!

The Society is working on a new book, "South Park in the 70s". This book is about you - your stories, your pictures, your memories of our community during this transformative decade.

If you would like to contribute to this new book, please send your stories and pictures to Michael Serena or Vince Ciaramella at southparkinthe70s@gmail.com. All contents published by the South Park Historical Society is protected under copyright laws.

SLEEPY HOLLOW FALL CLEAN-UP

Environmental Chairperson Kathie Knaus has announced the date for the Fall clean-up of Sleepy Hollow Road. Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday, October 20th at 9:30 am. We will meet at the end of Sleepy Hollow Road (off Stoltz Road).

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

One Million Dollar Restoration of Cascade Pools

On July 19 Allegheny County, the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, the Allegheny County Parks Foundation, the Citrone Thirty-Three Foundation, and various other organizations teamed up to restore the historic Cascading pools near the Oliver Miller Homestead in South Park. On July 19, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Pittsburgh Penguins CEO David Morehouse made the announcement of the \$1 million dollar project and also participated in a ceremonial groundbreaking.

The following is from our book "History of Allegheny County's South Park - Farm Lands to Park Lands"

"The Cascading Pools in the Stone Manse Grove were built using huge stones quarried from the Sleepy Hollow area of the park. They were originally designed as a peaceful area where the public could enjoy the water. The water flowed over the huge flat rocks which formed small cascading waterfalls. The pools were filled with crystal-clear cool water from a near-by spring. In later years it was commonly referred to as the Stone Manse pool.

The popular family spot was closed due to liability. Over the years, the pools have become dry and over-grown but the stone formation is still visible from the Oliver Miller homestead parking area."

Clairton Progress
December 14, 1945

BROUGHTON NEWS

"The people of Snowden Township and also of Jefferson Township will gather tomorrow evening, December 15, at the Veterans' Hall in Bruceton to give testimony with a dinner and an evening's program of delightful entertainment in honor of Dr. D. M. Davis, who has spent most of his life in these communities where he served us all with a generous heart and unselfish skill. Dr. Davis came to any home, wherever he was needed, at any hour of the day or night, and has, without doubt, saved literally thousands of our lives because he was always willing and ready to give his medical art fearlessly. He can be counted as the family friend of the community and is the old-time type of country doctor. This testimonial affair is really a testimony of gratitude to a man who gave of himself freely. It is hoped this gesture on our part will make him happy."

"Carl Koonse of Broughton died at the Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh after a lingering illness. A resident of Broughton for 45 years, he is survived by his wife, Hazel Peterman Koonse, and four children, Willard, with the Marine Corps in China, Melena, Jean and Carl Jr., at home, and his mother, Mrs. Koonse Jackson.

Mr. Koonse was one of the first organizers of Broughton's Fire Department and the first manager of the Drum and Bugle Corp. He was also a social member of the Vets. Friends are being received at the Galley Funeral Home and services will be held at the Broughton Lutheran Church by Rev. Forrest Eberle after the return of his son Willard."



Prior to construction - 1929



A favorite spot in the park in 1930

Membership/Renewal Application

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Date _____

Please check one of the following:

_____ Individual Membership	-	\$15.00
_____ Family Membership	-	\$20.00
_____ Senior Membership (65 and over)	-	\$10.00
_____ Student Members	-	\$ 5.00
_____ Donation _____		

Please make check payable to:

South Park Historical Society
P.O. Box 555
South Park, PA 15129

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

September 15, 2018 - South Park Community

September 18, 2018 - "The History of Mining in South Park Township" with speaker Warren Merritt

October 16, 2018 - "Glass Manufacturing in Pittsburgh" with speaker Martin T. Fuess, M.R., RPA

November 17, 2018 - Annual Oldies Dance Bash. Look for more info in the next "Historian."

November 20, 2018 - "Strange Tales for an Autumn Evening" with speaker Keith Bastianini

December 11, 2018 - Annual Christmas Party

Meetings are held at 7:00 pm in the Library Fire Hall, 6581 Library Road, South Park, PA 15129.

Our meetings are held with no charge and open to the public. Bring a friend and enjoy an interesting program.

If you are considering donating photographs, documents, or other archival material to the Historical Society's collection, please contact Ruth McKee, archivist, at 412-835-9529.

Due to the flood on June 20 the Museum is closed to the public until further notice.

South Park Historical Society
P.O. Box 555
South Park, PA
15129

**For more information visit us at: <http://www.southparkhistoricalsociety.com>
or on Face book at: <https://www.facebook.com/southparkhistoricalsociety>**