



THE SOUTH PARK HISTORIAN

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Historical Society Museum Reopened



On May 11, 2019 The South Park Historical Society's Museum finally reopened to the public. On June 16, 2018 The South Park Historical Society celebrated the grand reopening of the museum after being closed for several years for renovations. Four days later, flash flooding unfortunately caused major damage and forced the closing of the museum once again.

Through the generous donations and efforts of many people throughout the community, the museum once again has reopened its doors. Thank you to everyone involved.

The museum, located in the corner parking lot of the Port Authority Library Station at 6425 Pleasant Street, will be open the second and fourth Saturday throughout the summer months from noon to 2:00 pm.

Sleepy Hollow Clean Up



Front Row (l-r) Kathie Knaus, Joan Lane, Ruth McKee, Mary Ann Tkach, Marilyn Moore; Back Row (l-r) Chuck Tkach and Ed Knaus.

On April 27, 2019 members from The Historical Society cleaned their sponsored area for the South Park Township Environmental Day Clean Up. The area from The Sleepy Hollow Academy to Brownsville Road looks immaculate. Through the efforts of many individuals and groups cleaning up various roads, pathways, and trails in the Township, 64 bags of trash, 9 tires, 13 hubcaps, and many miscellaneous car parts were picked up. The Historical Society has been granted a "Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful" sign on Brownsville Road across from Georges Supply Center. Great job to those involved in the clean up!



SOCIETY BUSINESS

Oldies Dance Bash

On Saturday November 23, 2019 the Historical Society will be hosting their annual Oldies Dance Bash. DJ Tom Harris will be playing hits from the '50's to the 80's. Tickets are \$35 and will be available from September 1 until November 16. All seats are reserved and includes a hot buffet, Yuengling, and Pepsi products. Tickets are available by calling Joan at 412-835-0946.

Board of Directors Update

The Society would like to welcome Jackie Brandt and Erika Ciaramella to the Board of Directors. Betty Klavon has stepped down as Secretary and will remain as a Board Member. Erika Ciaramella has been appointed the new Secretary by Board President Joy Marquis.

Condolences

The South Park Historical Society would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the families of Ted Wilderman and Paul Kubis on their passing. Both were wonderful and valued members of the Historical Society and will be missed.

Yard Sale

The South Park Historical Society will be having their fundraising yard sale at the Historical Society Museum June 14 and 15 from 8am-2pm. Donated items for the yard sale can be dropped off at the museum Friday June 7, from 6pm-8pm or Saturday June 8, from 11am-3pm. Previous school yearbooks will also be available at the yard sale for \$10.

Summer Hiatus

As a reminder there will be no meetings in July and August due to the summer hiatus. The Historical Society will resume its regular meetings on September 17, 2019.

Guest Speakers



At the March 19 meeting speaker Norene Beatty discussed Pittsburgh's Old Stone Tavern. It was a fascinating look into the oldest commercial building in Pittsburgh.



At the April 16 meeting speaker Dave Aitken discussed The Little Saw Mill Run Railroad. His talk gave us a window into transportation history.



At the May 23 meeting speaker Todd DePastino discussed World War II Veterans. It was an interesting program as he shared the veterans' stories regarding their service. He also had his book "Bill Maudlin" for sale.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

The Pittsburgh Press – June 5, 1938

Mayor's Wife Digs Earth For Exhibit

"Mrs. Cornelius D. Scully, wife of Mayor Scully, turned the first spade of Earth at ground breaking ceremonies for the "House of Flowers" in South Park which will be the center of the flower garden show of the Allegheny County Sesquicentennial celebration Sept. 2-24."

Monessen Daily Independent – August 29, 1939

G.A.R. Veterans to Attend County Fair

"Tottering veterans of the Civil War, here for the 73rd encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, rallied their strength for the GAR's show at the Allegheny County Fair today and the annual parade tomorrow of the organization and its five affiliated bodies. Of the 10,000 persons expected to march in the parade, only about 100 will be Civil War veterans. Death and infirmities have so thinned the ranks of the GAR that only 100 veterans have appeared for the convention."

The Daily Republican – June 3, 1886

Finleyville, Pa.

"The latest reports this morning from the gas well at Cochran's Mills, go to show it was not exaggerated in the Republican yesterday, as there is over 200 pounds pressure all the time, and all efforts to shut it off so far have proved a failure. Although the fire is out the gas still continues to throw the water like a great fountain, hundreds of feet into the air, and as they only struck a crevice in the rock from which the gas comes, the size of the well cannot be estimated at present, for when drilled to the proper depth it will no doubt be an immense roarer."

The Pittsburgh Press – February 25, 1982

Park's Maple Syrup Going Into Goodies

"Maple sugaring will be demonstrated and discussed at South Park in the next few weeks. Naturalists assigned to parks, with the assistance of volunteers, will collect maple sap from the park's woodlands. There will be pancakes for the maple syrup and a colonial drink made from maple sap and sassafras."

The Pittsburgh Press – July 12, 1942

Blind Golfer Zmr-zel Almost

Scores Hole-In-One

"Bill Zmr-zel, the blind golfer from Library, Pa., very nearly added a hole-in-one to his list of miraculous accomplishments the past week.

While playing with his "seeing-eye" caddie, Jerry Castelli, Library theater owner, Bill's tee shot hit the flag on the 148-yard No. 8 "water-hole" at South Park County Golf course, but failed to drop into the cup. It rolled two feet away from the pin for easy birdie two."

The Pittsburgh Press – December 7, 1956

Army Seeks Quick OK for Nike Center -

H-Bomb Proof HQ Planned for South Park

"The Army is seeking quick approval of plans to build a multi-million dollar electronic control center here for its Nike guided missile batteries. It will be equipped with the latest type radar gear to detect enemy plans and direct the flight of missiles launched to intercept them. The center, to be located in South Park, will be capable of withstanding even a hydrogen bomb blast."

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

June 14-15, 2019 – Yard Sale 8am-2pm

July/August 2019 – Summer Hiatus

September 17, 2019 - “Death Glows in the Dark: The Story of the Radium Girls” with speaker Vince Ciaramella

October 15, 2019 - “Strange Tales for an Autumn Evening” with speaker Keith Bastianini

November 19, 2019 - “Mystical Inca Ruins of Peru” with speaker Leonard Marraccini

November 23, 2019 – Oldies Bash

December 10, 2019 - Christmas Party

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.

For more information visit us at:

<http://www.southparkhistoricalsociety.com>

or on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/southparkhistoricalsociety>

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