



THE SOUTH PARK HISTORIAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 29, Number 1

March 2024

Meetings and Programs

The Society's Program Committee has been busy scheduling interesting speakers and exciting programs. Thanks to Joan Lane, Nancy Smith, and Steve Tkach for the programs listed below.

Meetings are held in the Library Fire Hall, 6581 Library Road, South Park, PA, at 7:00 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend and enjoy an interesting evening.

Exciting 2024 Programs Schedule

March 19, 2024 - "Route 66," presented by Dick Gaetano, who always has a very informative program

April 16, 2024 - "Show & Tell," Everyone is encouraged to bring an item to show and discuss

May 21, 2024 - "Olive Thomas: A Shooting Star Across the Silver Screen," presented by Vincent T. Ciaramella

June 18, 2024 - "My Life As A "Can Do" Seabee," presented by The Honorable Michael E. McCarthy, Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania

July 15, 2024 - August 20, 2024 - Summer Hiatus; no meetings are scheduled

September 17, 2024 - To Be Determined

October 15, 2024 - "The Witch of the Monongahela," presented by Thomas White

November 19, 2024 - "A Historical Review of the Mines in South Park," presented by Dan Stellute

December 10, 2024 - Annual Christmas Party, an evening of fun and entertainment for members and their guests.



Yard Sale in May

Are you planning to clean out items in your home? We have just the place for them.

The Society is accepting donations of tools, decorations, and any household items in clean, reusable condition. They can be brought to the Museum at 6425 Pleasant St., South Park (corner of the Port Authority Park and Ride) on **Saturday, May 11, 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm** or **Wednesday, May 15, 6:00 - 8:00 pm**.

The Yard Sale dates are **Friday, May 17, and Saturday, May 18, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm** at the museum.

Your support and donations are greatly appreciated.

A Friendly Reminder Membership Renewals Are Due

Our membership chairman, Marilyn Moore, reminds us that membership renewals are due. To renew your membership, please use the form on the last page of this newsletter. If your information hasn't changed, just send a check to South Park Historical Society, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 555, South Park, PA, 15129.

A Change In Receiving Your Newsletter

Due to the many requests, the Board decided to distribute the newsletter in printed form and deliver it by the U. S. Post Office. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Joy Marquis at joysmarquis@gmail.com.

Christmas Party

The Historical Society held its well-attended annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 12, at the Library Fire Hall. The members and their guests enjoyed the event, which was a huge success.

A special thank you to Joan Lane, who filled in as the Master of Ceremonies for Cheryl McKee. Ruth McKee, Party Chairman, and daughter Cheryl McKee, Master of Ceremonies, could not attend the party due to Ruth's daughter, Robyn's illness.

Cyd West Comfort Catering prepared a delicious buffet. Comedian David Kaye of Slapsticks Productions presented outstanding entertainment for the evening.

A special Honorary Certificate was presented to Tom Smith to recognize his contributions and continued support for the Historical Society.

Thank you to Ruth and her committee, the Library Fire Department, Debbie Dongilli, Lisa Manion, and Jordyn Manion.

Memorial Day Observance

The VFW Library Post 6664, located at 6544 Church Street in South Park, will host Memorial Day events on Monday, May 27, 2024.

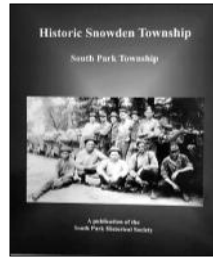


Lawrence Vogel, Post 6664 Memorial Day Chairman, and the post members are planning a parade starting at 11:00 am and march to the Archie Mathias Memorial on Brownsville Road.

The public is invited to view their memorabilia displays and enjoy a luncheon at the Post 6664 parking lot after the ceremony.

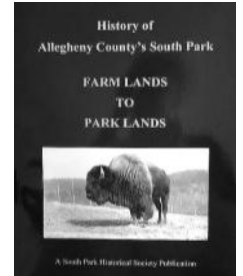
The Historical Society will participate in Post 6664 events, and the Society's Museum will be open and invite the public to view our many military photographs, information, and artifacts displays.

Discovering Local History



The South Park Historical Society has published two books about the history of our community: "Historic Snowden Township (South Park Township)" and "History of Allegheny County's South Park: Farm Lands to Park Lands."

The books are \$20 each (tax included) and can be shipped anywhere in the United States for an additional \$5.00 for shipping and handling. You can also purchase a copy at the South Park Township Library or by contacting Ruth at 412-835-9529 or jimru@verizon.net.



Join Us At The Museum

The community is invited to bring family and friends to see the displays of coal mining, schools, veterans, county fairs, sports, and much more at the museum.

To view the displays, the museum will be open on Saturday, April 13, and after that, on the 2nd and 4th Saturday, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm, except for holidays. The museum is at 6425 Pleasant Street, South Park, at the corner of the Port Authority Park and Ride parking lot.

Saying Goodbye

Grace Lutheran Church began in 1906 when the chapel on Cochran's Mill Road Extension was constructed for \$2,000. The Pittsburgh Coal Company donated the property. The church was organized under the leadership of Rev. C. V. Sheatsley, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church.

The members erected a new Grace Lutheran Church on 4.3 acres on Hilldale Drive in South Park Township. It was dedicated on October 19, 1969. The 100th Anniversary was celebrated on September 14, 2006.

Due to the decline of membership, the church council had to make a final decision to close the church. It was a sad day for all when the final service was held on December 31, 2023.

ARCHIVED HISTORY

The veterans memorial information below is from the Society's "The History of Snowden/South Park Township" book.



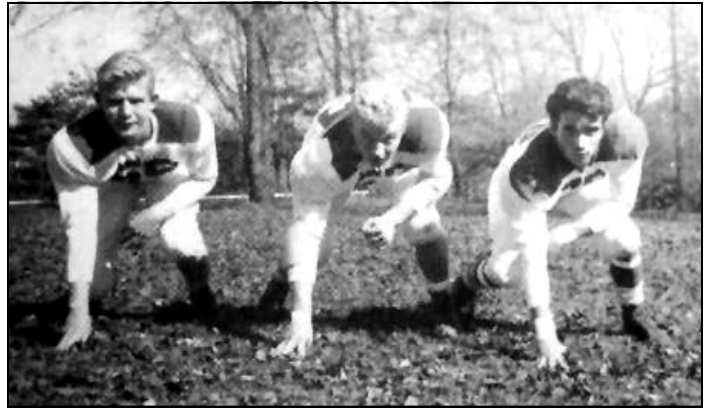
The picture above is of the original Library Veterans Memorial in 1942. It was located on the hillside at the Library and Brownsville Roads intersection (near the current traffic light in the Library). This monument listed all the men from the Library area serving in the military during WWII. It was replaced in 1946 by the current Library (Archie Mathias) Veterans Monument on Brownsville Road in Library.

A smaller veterans memorial was erected by the residents of the Piney Fork area to honor WWII veterans of the Piney Fork, Knothole, and Snowden areas of Snowden (now South Park) Twp. It is at the intersection of Brownsville and Piney Fork Roads.



The above photo is of the Broughton Veterans Memorial in 1953. It replaced the original monument that stood in the same spot. The memorial listed the residents of Broughton, Curry, and Bruceton who were in the service during WWII.

Snowden High Senior Eagles



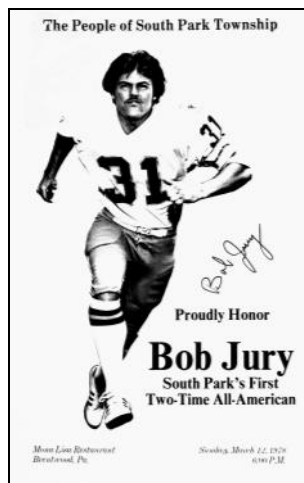
(From the Snowden High School 1957 Aquila Yearbook.)

"These three musketeers are Walt Keller, Harry "Whitey" Criss, and Rich Pro. Though not a starter, Keller played with ease and confidence. Criss, who powers his way for every inch, made the W.P.I.A.L. "B" team last season, this year it was a mere formality. Pro, elusive and speedy, swept the ends, slanted off tackle, and ripped through openings."

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
September 25, 1971

South Park Gets Verdict From Jury

"The Jury is in. Bob Jury personally charged his South Park teammates by scoring all three touchdowns, leading the Eagles to their third straight victory, 20-14, over West Allegheny last night."



"Jury ran back a punt 80 yards in the first quarter, took a 40-yard pass from Ron Blasich in the second and scored from 28 yards out in the third."

"West Allegheny (0-3) got its score in the last quarter on a 25-yard pass, Dave Chappel to Frank Williams."

"Both Jury and David Lee gained over 100 yards."

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 & 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

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For more information visit us at:
southparkhistoricalsociety.com or on
Facebook at: facebook.comsouthparkhistoricalsociety

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