



# THE SOUTH PARK HISTORIAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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November 2021



South Park Historical Society

*Christmas Party*

*December 14, 2021*



**Library Fire Hall, 6581 Library Road, South Park, PA 15129**

**Doors Open at 5:30 PM - Dinner Served at 6:00 PM**

**Festivities Include:**

**A Delicious Hot Buffet Prepared by Cyd West - Comfort Catering  
Comedy Master Magician "The Fabulous Flanzinee"**

**Door Prizes**

**The party is a BYOB event**

**Members - \$10.00**

**Guests - \$15.00**

**\*\*\* Christmas Party is open to all members and their guests \*\*\***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Members Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ (please include name(s) on the back)

Total Amount Due - Member @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due - Guests @ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

For further information or concerns, call Ruth McKee @ 412-835-9529

**The deadline for reservations is December 6, 2021**

Please return this reservation form with a check payable to South Park Historical Society and mail to:

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

# SOCIETY BUSINESS

## Programs



At our September 21 program, our long-time member and friend, Leonard Marraccini, presented an interesting program on the “Adena Culture: Mound Builders in Southwestern Pennsylvania”. The talk included a video of the burial mounds construction, and artifacts that were found in the burial mounds.



An interesting program on “Jack McClelland, The Pride of Pittsburg: Pittsburgh and Boxing in the 19th and 20th Century” was presented at our October meeting by Vince Ciaramella. The program focused on the history of boxers and early boxers, with emphasis on Jack McClelland, the grandfather of Vince Ciaramella.

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## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Membership Chairman Marilyn Moore reminds us that 2022 membership renewals are due. If your information has not changed, send a check to South Park Historical Society, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 555, South Park, PA, 15129. For renewals with new contact information please use the form on page 4 of this newsletter. The Society values our loyal members and welcomes new members.

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## The Historical Society Museum is Open to Visitors

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

The museum is open to the public on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, from noon to 2:00 pm, except for holidays. It will be closed November 27th, and December 25th. It will also be closed during our winter hiatus of January and February.

## Gift Ideas

The South Park Historical Society has published two books about the history of our community: The books would make a wonderful Christmas gift for a family member or an out-of-town friend.

***Historic Snowden Township (South Park Township): \$20***

***History of Allegheny County’s South Park: Farm Lands to Park Lands: \$20***

The books can be shipped anywhere for an additional \$3.25. You can pick up a copy at the South Park Township Library or by contacting the South Park Historical Society at 412-835-9529 or jimru@verizon.net.

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## A New Way To Receive Your Newsletter

We all are aware of price increases with food, utilities, fuel and just about everything. The Historical Society has also had substantial increases, too. In addition to museum expenses, insurance, utilities, supplies, etc., our newsletter publishing and postage has become more costly to distribute. In an effort to cut costs, the Historical Society will be emailing the March 2022 newsletter to our members.

If you would prefer a paper copy, please send an email to jsmarquis@comcast.net, or call 412-835-8633 (please leave a message.)

We thank you for your help and support with the new way to receive your newsletter and help us cut expenses.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

A reminder of our winter hiatus. No meetings are scheduled for January 18 and February 15, 2022. Meetings will resume on March 15, 2022.

# ARCHIVED HISTORY

Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph  
June 22, 1944

## School Fire Probed, Vandals Suspected

“Scenting a “firebug,” county detectives and Fire Marshall Peter J. McGurk today probed a \$2,000 fire in the much-vandalized Stewart Elementary School at Library.

The fire was one of three that kept Library firemen on the run for two hours last night. Others were at Montour Mine No. 10 tippel of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, and in a former dance pavilion at Art’s Tavern on Piney Fork Road. The mine tippel fire, which caused slight damage, was caused by a short-circuit, a coal company spokesman said.

Library and Broughton firemen fought the schoolhouse flames which swept two first floor rooms of the two-story building. Papers had been scattered on the floor, firemen said.

J. J. Bruce, secretary of the Snowden Township School Board, asked detectives and McGurk to investigate the midnight blaze. He said no open fires had been left in the building, whose students are on vacation.

Twice before Stewart School was ransacked. Drawers were pulled out of teachers’ desk and dumped on the floor last month. During the Easter vacation, a typewriter, teachers’ cosmetics and many pencils were stolen. At the same time, Library High School was ransacked. In both schools, an American flag was pulled from the wall and thrown on the floor.”

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The Pittsburgh Press  
August 28, 1927 (advertisement)

## COAL MINERS

“The Pittsburgh Coal Company can use good experienced machine coal loaders, machine coal 62 and 65 cents per ton; pick coal 88 and 94 cents per ton. Apply Room 21, S. Market St., Pittsburgh, Pa.”

The Pittsburgh Press  
March 21, 1936

## Park Building Shelters 1300 Flood Victims

“Shelter and food for more than 1300 flood victims of Allegheny County who are homeless were provided in North and South Parks today by the County Commissioners.

Nearly 800 cots have been installed in South Park buildings for the refugees, and 514 spaces were available in North Park.

Holding an emergency session early yesterday, the three Commissioners voted at once to turn the families of the two big parks over to the American Red Cross.

County Planning Commission Engineer Park H. Martin and his first assistant, James Devlin, were deputized by the Commissioners to direct all transportation to and out of the park encampment.

They have been allotted 50 trucks, ordinarily used by county engineers and survey men and election aides, to transfer the flood refugees to their improvised homes.

Food for the homeless in South Park is being cooked at a restaurant near the fairgrounds and at the Mounted Boy Scout cabin. In North Park hot meals are being prepared in ovens around the preserve and on camp stoves installed in dance hall and shelters for Boy and Girl Scouts.

Among the South Park structures being utilized during the emergency are the Museum Building, the eight general exhibition buildings at the fairgrounds, where there is space for 400 persons, the clubhouse at the park links, the Boy and Girl Scout houses, and the hospital across from the race track.

In North Park, the following buildings are in use now: Parish Hall Dance Pavilion, the Boy and Girl Scout buildings and shelters in the park’s dozen groves.”

## 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**

## Upcoming Meetings and events

**November 16, 2021** - A special program on ‘The History of Consolidation Coal Company’ with speaker Warren J. Merritt

**December 14, 2021** - Historical Society’s Annual Christmas Celebration with a delicious hot buffet by Cyd West of Comfort Catering and lots of door prizes.

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.

For more information visit us at:  
[southparkhistoricalsociety.com](http://southparkhistoricalsociety.com)

Or on Facebook at:  
[facebook.com/southparkhistoricalsociety](https://facebook.com/southparkhistoricalsociety)

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