

Osceola Mills Community Historical Foundation

Annual Bulletin July, 2014

Floyd Hauth, President

Cathy Hollis, Secretary/Treasurer

Janet Hauth, Vice President

Moody Thompson, Corresponding Secretary

Once again, the OMCHF has undergone an active and productive year. The thanks go out to you, the membership, the generous benefactors and volunteers who make this organization the well known success that it has become!

Hours and Dues

The OMCHF Museum is open on **Wednesdays and Sundays from 2:00 until 4:00**; from Memorial Day until October. Admission is free of charge and visitors are welcome! Group tours can also be arranged by calling 339-7778 or 339-6188. Membership dues are \$5.00 per year for an individual, \$15 for a family, \$25 for an organization, \$35 for a business and \$100 for a lifetime.

A Warm Welcome Is Extended!!!!!!

The OMCHF meets at the historic Brisbin House, 600 Lingle Street, at 7:30 on the first Wednesday of the month. Consider yourself warmly welcome to attend the meetings. The OCMHF is an active community oriented group. See if you can spark your own interest in the history of the local area. The Osceola Mills, Moshannon Valley and Clearfield/Centre County areas all have a richly storied past; one that you can discover and enjoy. Spread the word! All are welcome! Pay us a visit!!!!!!

Events!!! Events!!! Events!!!

The OMCHF Museum was open for visitors during the **Annual Car Show** on Saturday, June 29. Thanks to all who volunteered.

The **Annual July 4th, Independence Day Parade**, included another fine float sponsored by the OMCHF. This year's theme was the 200th anniversary of our national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner, 1814-2014*. The float was complete with a 15 star and 15 striped replica US flag of the time. Many thanks to David Caslow for the use of his truck!

Again this year, the OMCHF sponsored the **Rabies Clinic**, to inoculate area pets. The foundation raised \$300! Thanks so much to Vanetta Kennedy for coordinating the clinic.

The OMCHF held its **Annual Dinner** last December at the Philipsburg Elks Country Club. The guest speaker was Frank Harchak of Houtzdale; who gave a fascinating presentation about digging old privies and dumps for local and other antique bottles. Frank's presentation is available for other local groups. The details for this year's dinner will be announced at a later OMCHF meeting. Watch the local newspapers!

The Osceola Mills **Annual Flower Show** is scheduled for Saturday, July 12 at the Fire Hall. All entries from amateur to master gardeners are welcome! This year's theme is "Birds and Blooms In Osceola."

Osceola Mills **Spirit Day** will be held on Saturday, September 13. The OMCHF will again take part with its annual homemade soup sale. Every drop of soup was sold last year; so let's hope to do as well this time.

Tee Shirts, Ball Caps and Sweatshirts of various sizes will be available for sale on Spirit Day. They proudly display the Osceola Indian logo. They can also be purchased at the OMCHF or by calling Shirley Hollenbach at 339-7942. Tee shirts and caps are \$12 and sweatshirts are \$20. They make great birthday or Christmas gifts!!!

Songs for the season.....The OMCHF will again organize its **Christmas Caroling** fest this December. All who like to sing are welcome to join!

VISUAL AND OTHER MEDIA

The **DVD *Osceola Mills....From The Beginning....Volume 2*** by **Jerry Fritz** has been completed and now is available for at the OMCHF Museum. The cost is \$10. This DVD is a fine compliment to the Volume 1 book by Jerry's late father, Jasper Fritz. Some copies of the Volume 1 book are also for sale at the museum. Thank you, Jerry, for all your research and hard work! This DVD is a great accomplishment to be enjoyed by all who love the local history of the Osceola Mills area. Mr. Fritz has offered to donate proceeds from the sale of the DVD to the OCMHF!

Osceola Mills Historical Foundation Slideshow by **David Caslow** is a fine DVD that is full of historical photos of the Osceola Mills area. Many are scenes depicting a "then and now" theme. It too, is for sale at the Museum for \$12. Thanks and congratulations, David.

Ms. Anne Guenther, formerly of Sandy Ridge and now residing in Lake Balboa CA; has led a career as an accomplished artist for Disney Studios. Her sketches and renderings have won an Academy of TV Arts and Sciences (Emmy) award. Ms. Guenther has since donated many of her original sketches to the OMCHF Museum. They are proudly displayed on the third floor and art lovers, as well as Disney fans are welcome to view them. Thank you, Ms. Guenther, for thinking of the hometown folks!

Don Stevens formerly of Osceola Mills, and now residing in Virginia, has also donated a number of his sketches to the OMCHF. His sketches depict scenery and portraits. Mr. Stevens also has generously donated the sales proceeds to the OMCHF. Thank you, Mr. Stevens, for your kindness!

The Osceola Mills Community Library has acquired four new computers for use by its patrons and visitors. The Library shares the Brisbin house with the historical museum. The OMCHF will have the ancestry.com site installed for genealogical research. This will benefit those who use both the Library and the Foundation.

Fueling the Gilded Age is a newly published book by **Dr. Andrew Arnold**, the History Department Chair at Kutztown University. It tells the sad yet exciting story of the 1875 miner's strikes at Osceola Mills, Sterling and Houtzdale. Dr. Arnold did much of his research here in Clearfield County. The book is a great narrative and the cover photo of a late 19th century local mine came from the collection of the OMCHF Museum! A copy is on display on the museum's second floor.

Income And Building Use....Gratitude And Future Plans

The **Osceola Mills Community Library** is on a solid financial footing as donations have increased since the volunteer group has taken over the day to day operations. These volunteers are a dedicated group who have given much of their time and effort to make the Library a success. Please note....What benefits the Library also benefits the OMCHF!

The OMCHF now collects rent for space leased to the **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**. The rented room houses the Osceola Mills home office of **State Representative Tommy Sankey**. Representative Sankey also maintains an office in Clearfield.

The OMCHF offers its thanks and gratitude to the estate of the late **Mrs. Stella Wawrynovic**, of Clearfield and originally of Spike Island. Mrs. Wawrynovic, who passed away last year; bequeathed \$25,000 to the OMCHF. Her generosity was outstanding! She and her late husband **Frank** were well known and respected for their quiet and modest manner; by which they gave financial support to deserving groups and individuals alike. They did so without fanfare or pretention.

The OMCHF will carefully and prudently use this funding for years to come. The immediate plan is convert the heating system from steam to hot water heat. This improvement is long overdue and now can be done. It will certainly save fuel oil costs. Other projects, such as an elevator, may follow.

The world should have many more people like Frank and Stella Wawrynovic. May they rest in peace.

Become A Member of the Osceola Mills Community Historical Foundation!!!

Name_____

Address_____

Phone/Email_____

Dues are: \$5.00 Individual \$15 Family \$25 Organization \$35 Business \$100 Life

Please remit to the OMCHF 600 Lingle Street Osceola Mills PA 16666

This I Remember

This part of the OCMHF annual bulletin is dedicated to an individual, business, church or local event that has enriched the hometown history of the Osceola Mills area. We hope, in the future, to solicit more ideas and stories that reminisce and tell the past history of the common and ordinary people in our area. Often, the best history does not come from textbooks. It comes from the life stories of ordinary people who are in reality; extraordinary. We at the OCMHF welcome your input. If you have a tale to tell; please call David Wulderk at 378-5748.

This year's bulletin highlights **Nick Mott's Diner**. The info was provided by his daughter, Jean Butterworth.

The small, white and square shaped building on Route 53, just past the brickyard, on the way to Houtzdale, was Nick and Julia Mott's Diner. They began the business in the 1930's and it lasted until the late '60's. It wasn't fancy but it had the area's only neon roof sign that simply said "Diner". The inside contained a lunch counter with eight stools and four dining tables. The floor was wood.

Simple surroundings at Mott's Diner still meant good food. The place was often packed! Nick and Julia prepared the daily special that sold for eighty five cents. A T-bone steak could be had for \$1.25. Pork chops and ham were also grilled. Nick was known for great chili and Julia for her homemade pies; but the favorite was Nick's hamburgers. There was something about the flavor that just hasn't been duplicated. They would far out do today's mass produced discs from the corporate owned fast food giants! Locals over the age of 60 remember them well.

Running a diner is indeed hard work with long hours. Nick opened at 6:00 am to bring in the breakfast crowd. His pancakes were as well liked as his hamburgers. Brickyard workers, teachers, truckers and coal strippers all made up the morning diners. Nick would be working at the grill while talking to his clientele with the ever present cigar in his mouth. He knew most of his diners personally. Nick's three daughters worked the weekday 6:00 to 10:00 pm shift and Sunday dinners meant a standing room only crowd. Nick also had truck scales adjacent to the diner and walked out to his other side business to weigh coal trucks.

There was a lot of friendly banter. Nick and his customers entertained each other with fishing and hunting stories; exaggerated but lots of fun! Otherwise entertainment was from a juke box and a TV. A choice of two channels brought in ball games broadcast in black and white. There was no air conditioning.

One curious note was that African Americans, who lived and worked near the brickyard, came to the doorway and placed their order. According to his daughter Jean; this was not Nick's rule. He would have served them inside also. Evidently, this was a sad custom brought from their native segregated South to Osceola Mills. Some past practices and ways of life are better left in the past.

Visitors to the OMCHF museum will see a nice photo of Nick with a spatula in hand and cigar in his mouth; hard at work in his diner. A set of his china (plates and cups) is next to the photo. Thank you so much, Jean, for help with this article!