



NOVEMBER 2017

Hours

The Osceola Mills Community Historical Foundation's museum is located in the historic Brisbin House on Lingle Street in Osceola Mills PA. Regular museum visitation hours are from **2:00 until 4:00 on Sundays**; from Memorial Day until the end of October. **The OMCHF meets on the first Wednesday of each month (excluding December through February) at 7:00 pm in the Brisbin House.**

Museum Tours

Tours for individuals or groups, outside of regular hours, can be arranged by calling 814-378-5748 or 814-339-7778.

President's Report

The 2016-2017 year has been both busy and productive! Keeping up the good work is a great way to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the Foundation. We owe a great debt to the founding members, both living and deceased, who gave so much of their time and effort to realize a vision of keeping the local historical past alive for generations yet to come.

Third floor closets have been cleaned and rearranged. Once again, members volunteered their time to clean the museum in April. Special thanks to Michelle Shoff and Sue Williams for cleaning the museum floors and windows!

In conjunction with our July 4th parade, the OMCHF has set up a **World War I Centennial Display, 1917-2017**, on the third floor military room. Original uniforms, gas masks, backpacks, a forty-eight star flag and a commemorative banner are all shown. It is a good way to honor the doughboys of a century ago. Many who fought the brutal war in the trenches of northern France were from our area.

Remember, all are welcome to visit our museum and attend our monthly meetings. The OMCHF wants and needs you! Come to our museum and experience the rich local history of the Osceola Mills area! The displayed artifacts, books, photos, etc. have all been donated by those, near and far, with a warm attachment to Osceola Mills. Community pride is on display at our museum!

Our roofing project was underway in October! A new and needed roof was added to the Brisbin House. This undertaking and those of the bay window upgrade and heating/cooling projects of the past few years will further enhance the structural integrity of the 141 year old Brisbin House. The OMCHF continues to work closely with the Osceola Library which is also located in the Brisbin House.

The OMCHF sends its heartfelt best wishes to founding member **Andy Tocimak** who reached his 99th birthday this summer! Andy continues to be sharp and still asks about the OMCHF's activities. Congratulations, good friend!

Andy's son, Drew, has kept up his father's tradition of service to the OMCHF by once again organizing the annual fundraising golf benefit at the Elks Country Club in Philipsburg. The proceeds go to the OMCHF, and we are grateful to Drew and all who participated.

Recent Events

Our **Annual Dinner** in December was well attended at the Philipsburg Elks Country Club. The guest speaker was **Rebecca Inlow, of Osceola Mills**, who gave a preliminary presentation of her soon to be released book about the history of Philipsburg's **Rowland Theatre**. The theatre is celebrating its 100th anniversary. It has undergone restoration since its opening in 1917; especially since becoming operated by a community volunteer group in recent years.

Becky's presentation was fabulous! She recounted the essential role of Charles Rowland, of Houtzdale and later Philipsburg, in the establishment of the theatre. The theatre was only one of Mr. Rowland's life accomplishments as he served as a director of the Altoona and Pittsburgh Branch (Alley Popper) of the Pittsburgh and Susquehanna Railroad and was a three term congressman in the US House of Representatives; being first elected in 1914. Many, many thanks, Becky!

In June the local community turned out to celebrate the theatre's anniversary and dedicate the new marquee; which is a replica of the original one raised in 1917. The OMCHF purchased a commemorative brick which was embedded into the theatre's walkway entrance.

July 4th Week: The Annual Car Show was held on Sunday, July 2. The OMCHF received nearly a hundred visitors that day.

This year's parade theme commemorated the 100th anniversary of the US entry into World War I in 1917. Clearfield and Centre counties sent hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young men into training camps and then "over there" to the battlefields of France. "Send off" rallies for departing recruits were held at Osceola Mills' Pennsylvania Railroad station. The trench warfare and charges through "no man's land" were horrible. Some of the young miners, laborers, railroad workers, brickyard workers, etc. from Osceola Mills and Decatur and Rush Townships did not come back, including Private James Gorman and Lieutenant Harry Peters, who were killed on the western front in 1918. The original "Armistice Day" of November 11, 1918, now honored as Veterans Day, marked the end of what was called the "war to end all wars". The Osceola Mills American Legion Post was named in honor of both Gorman and Peters.



Rowland Theatre c. 1917



Rowland Theatre today



WWI Soldier Send Off at Osceola Mills Railroad Station

Clearfield and Centre counties sent hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young men into training camps and then "over there" to the battlefields of France.

Recent Events (continued)

Again, we thank our reliable friend and board member, **David Caslow**, for the use of his truck which was decorated with our museum's original century old uniforms, helmets and gas masks fitted over mannequins. Thanks also to his grandsons for riding along to throw candy!

The OMCHF also sponsored the annual **Rabies Clinic** in May and participated in the **Osceola Mills Flower Show** in July. **Christmas caroling** is planned for December.

The annual **Osceola Mills Spirit Day** celebration was Saturday, September 9. The OMCHF again sponsored its annual soup sale. Every drop had been sold in previous years, and this year was no exception. Osceola Mills and Cowtail logo tee shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps were sold as well. This was a fine community event held in cooperation with the Osceola Mills Women's Civic Club and the Columbia Fire Company.



In Memory of Anne Guenther

Anne Guenther, a true friend of the OMCHF, passed away on January 24, 2017, at the age of 79, in Lake Balboa, CA. She was born Gwila Anne Spittler and grew up in Sandy Ridge; graduating in the mid 1950's from what would become Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School. She left for California, at the age of 18, to further her talent and realize her dreams of becoming an animation artist.

Anne was hired by Disney Studios. Her first job with Disney was as an inker on the animated film classic *Sleeping Beauty*. Pegboard, the publication of the Animation Guild and Affiliated Electronic Graphic Artists, posted the story of a young woman "fresh from Pennsylvania, without money or contacts in the business... or very much artistic training. One bright morning on the Disney lot, she encountered Walt Disney. He asked her, "What are you doing here so early?" She answered, "I get here early every morning, Mr. Disney. I have to because I hitchhike to work." Anne was eighteen at the time and Disney was surprised."

When she began working as a background artist, in the late 1950's, Anne was one of the first women to



Anne Guenther, second from left, at Disney Studios 1960s

hold such a position. Pegboard called her a "prolific background artist." Throughout her decades long career, Anne contributed to numerous Disney films and TV shows. She earned an Academy Award for her animation work.

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In Memory of Anne Guenther (continued)



Anne Guenther displays artwork



Osceola Mills Women's Civic Club

By Janet Hauth

The Osceola Mills Women's Civic Club was formed in 1966 by a group of civic-minded women who were inspired to promote positive events in the town. A series of organizational meetings for a women's club were held in order to "sponsor projects of social, civic and cultural interests in the community."

On November 14, 1966 the first officers were elected. They were: President Ruth Burns, Vice-President Becky Tormey, Recording Secretary Susie Brown, Corresponding Secretary Helen Rice and Treasurer Nancy Baughman. During a November 29, 1966 meeting, members voted on a name for the club, and Osceola Women's Civic Club was chosen. The fourth Tuesday of each month was selected as a meeting date, and members decided that annual dues would be \$2.00.

The club grew in members and many community improvement projects were discussed. The largest and enduring one was to create a community swimming pool. The OMWCC was instrumental in

A few years ago, Anne came back to her home and spent the afternoon of July 3, 2011 at the OMCHF museum. She donated a good number of her original color drawings and animations, used in various films, throughout the years. They are proudly displayed on the Brisbin House Museum's third floor. Throughout the day, she greeted visitors and explained her years as a professional animating artist. Anne was a delightful lady and one who remembered her roots. May she rest in peace.

establishing the Clear-Centre Pool through tireless efforts doing research and raising funds. The pool remains a special recreational place which generations of families have enjoyed.

During these more than fifty productive years, the club has also sponsored Bloodmobiles, provided Christmas decorations for local store windows and town park, gave art awards to school students, held knitting and sewing classes, delivered Thanksgiving fruit trays to the elderly, sponsored the Annual Flower Shows, promoted Spirit Day, held blood pressure clinics, placed summer flower pots in town and donated money for many community needs; to name a few of its activities.

The OMWCC continues to promote positive events and welcomes new members to join in making the community a better place to live and enjoy. For more information, call President Carol Mekis at 339-6732 or come to the Brisbin House, 600 Lingle St. at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.



WWI Soldier Send Off at Osceola Mills Railroad Station



Clothing for Sale

The OMCHF continues to sell Osceola Mills and Cowtail logo tee shirts, sweat shirts and ball caps. **These items make great gifts and are a good way to show your Osceola Mills pride!** Please contact Shirley Hollenbach at 814-339-7942 for information regarding designs and shipping.

Tee Shirts	\$12.00	Sweatshirts . . .	\$20.00
Hoodies	\$30.00	Ball Caps	\$12.00

Books and DVDs for Sale

<i>Osceola Mills From The Beginning</i> by Jasper Fritz	\$10.00
<i>Hills of Penn</i> by Jim McNeish	\$6.00
<i>Chief Osceola, Patriot and Warrior</i>	\$2.50
<i>Days and Events That I Remember</i> by Bud Hollis	\$6.00
<i>Osceola Mills Photo Slide Show DVD</i> by David Caslow.	\$12.00
<i>Osceola Mills From the Beginning DVD Volume 2</i> by Jerry Fritz	\$12.00

Books and DVDs can be ordered from the OMCHF. See address below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND/OR ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone/Email _____

Type of Membership (please list and circle one): _____
 Individual \$5.00 Family \$15.00 Organization/Business \$25.00 Lifetime \$100.00

Please enclose a check payable to OMCHF and mail to: **OMCHF**
601 Lingle St
PO Box 212
Osceola Mills, PA 16666

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