



# Foundations

A Periodic Publication of News and Historical Interest  
For Members of The Beaver Area Heritage Foundation

Spring-Summer 2007

## “National Geographer” Display Opens at Museum

*Celebrating Beaver’s Prit Vesilind, Who Spanned the Globe with the National Geographic*

The Beaver Area Historical Museum's summer/early fall exhibit, "The National Geographer," honors Prit Vesilind, a longtime editor, writer, and photographer whose career at *National Geographic* magazine spanned 33 years. He recently retired as Managing Editor of *CQ Global Researcher*, an international affairs online magazine of the Congressional Quarterly in Washington.

Vesilind and his family were war refugees from Estonia who emigrated to the United States in 1949, settling in Beaver. He graduated from Beaver Area High School in 1960 and Colgate University in 1964, served four years of active duty as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, and received an MA in photography from the S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.



*Prit Vesilind on assignment in Canada*



*Vesilind enters the Russian Mir submersible, about to descend four miles into the ocean*

He began his journalism career as a sports writer for the *Marietta Daily Journal* in Georgia, and was named Outdoor Editor and columnist for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* a year later. After graduate school Vesilind became a writer-photographer for the *Providence Journal*.

Vesilind joined the staff of *National Geographic* in 1973, as a writer of photo captions. He served as a copy editor, Senior Writer, and Senior Assistant Editor for Adventure and Expedition stories before taking early retirement in 2002. Still an active contributor to the magazine, he has produced nearly 40 articles that range from the Atacama Desert of Chile to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Vesilind Exhibit Honors Native Son (continued)



News photo of the Vesilinds one week after arriving in Beaver in 1949

One of Vesilind's focus areas has been the former Soviet Union and the captive nations of Eastern Europe, and in 2002 he was decorated with the Third Order of the White Star by the President of Estonia for his many contributions to the cause of Estonian independence.

Another area of interest has been underwater archaeology and exploration. A scuba diver, he has worked extensively with marine explorer Robert Ballard on expeditions to the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

He has dived on the wreckage of the *USS Arizona* in Pearl Harbor, and joined researchers in probing the underground caves and rivers of ancient Mayan sinkholes in the Yucatan. He has taken part in expeditions to find a lost Japanese submarine in the Atlantic, traveling more than four miles deep in a Russian submersible. Most recently, he chronicled the find of the treasure-laden steamer, *SS Republic*, with Greg Stemm of Odyssey Marine Exploration.



Preet's Beaver High School yearbook photo, 1960

Vesilind's books include *On Assignment USA*, which relates in-the-field tales of *National Geographic* journeys, *Horse People*, a global look at the relationship between men and horses, and *Lost Gold of the Republic*, the story of the wreck and excavation of the Civil-War era steamship that served both sides of the conflict.

Today he lives in Manassas, Virginia, on the banks of Bull Run, with his wife, Rima, a high school principal. They have three children and three grandchildren.



Aboriginal painting on eucalyptus bark, from Australia.

### Museum to Form Vesilind Collection

Our Historical Museum is forming a "Preet Vesilind Collection" of select examples of his published works so students and scholars may study – and be inspired by – his impressive body of printed material. His comprehensive bibliography includes:

#### National Geographic Articles -

- The Ohio – River with a Job to Do - Feb. 1977
- The Society Islands – Tahiti and her Sisters of the Wind - Jun. 1979
- Return to Estonia - Apr. 1980
- Helsinki – City with its Heart in the Country - Aug. 1981
- Two Berlins – A Generation Apart - Jan. 1982
- Arctic Native Peoples – Hunters of the Lost Spirit - Feb. 1983
- Monsoons – Life Breath of Half the World - Dec. 1984
- Israel – Searching for the Center - Jul. 1985
- Rising, Shining, Tennessee - May 1986
- Brazil: Moment of Promise and Pain - Mar. 1987
- Antarctica - Apr. 1987
- The Baltic Sea – Arena of Power - May 1988
- When the Wall Fell – Berlin's Ode to Joy - Apr. 1990
- The Baltic Nations – Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania - Nov. 1990
- Common Grounds, Different Dreams – U.S.- Canada Border - Feb. 1990
- Middle East Water: Critical Resource - May 1993
- Siberian Mummy Unearthed (ghostwritten) - Oct. 1994
- Sonoran Desert - Sep. 1994
- Upbeat, Downbeat, Offbeat New Orleans - Jan. 1995
- Macedonia, Caught in the Middle - Mar. 1996
- The Man who Measured Canada: David Thompson - May 1996
- Chiapas: Rough Road to Reality (Reporting) - Aug. 1996
- Sri Lanka - Jan. 1997
- Kaliningrad, Coping with a German Past and a Russian Future - Mar 1997
- Why Explore? (Millennium Essay) - Feb. 1998
- High-Tech Search for Roman Shipwrecks (Photographs) - Apr. 1998
- Last Dive of the I-52, Japanese Submarine - Oct. 1999
- Albanians, a People Undone - Feb. 2000
- In Search of Vikings - May 2000
- Deep Black Sea (ghostwritten for Dr. Robert Ballard) - May 2001
- Oil and Honor at Pearl Harbor - Jun. 2001
- Once and Future Fury, California's Volcanic North - Oct. 2001
- Hot Spot, The Philippines - May 2002
- The Driest Place on Earth, Chile's Atacama Desert - Aug. 2003
- Watery Graves of the Maya, Yucatan - Oct. 2003
- Chasing Tornadoes, a Tale of Science, Guts, and Luck - Apr. 2004
- Lost Gold, Bounty from a Civil War Ship - Sep. 2004

#### Books -

- On Assignment USA* - Washington D.C., 1997
- Horse People* - Stockholm, 2003
- An Estonian in Every Port* - Tallinn, Estonia, 2005
- Lost Gold of the Republic* - Tampa, 2005
- Estonia in the Year 1979* - Tallinn, Estonia, 2007

# Museum Raises \$365,000 for Long-Term Capital Projects

*Generous Real Estate Gift and Creative Transaction Leads to Stronger Future*



*Heritage Foundation president Art Cornell, left, and Museum Chairman Ed McLaughlin with a gift to be used exclusively for long-term capital projects*



*Assisting with student tours have been, kneeling, L-R: Tom Guernsey and Mike Showlin. Standing, L-R: Ed Dinsmore, Art Cornell, John McLaughlin, Joanna Ashburn, Nicky McLaughlin, bus driver (in blue), Joan High, Dolores Dowlin, Jean Lloyd, Betsy Conner Sullivan, Shirley Pow, Anne Oakes and Larry Holt.*

A check for more than \$365,600 was presented to the Heritage Foundation from proceeds of the sale of the Sweetwater Property, an asset donated to us last year by former Sewickley resident Dr. Peggy Smythe March, and sold in a creative transaction by Bovard Anderson Real Estate. The funds have been invested short term, at a favorable rate, until the Finance Committee develops a plan. The overall intention is to use the funds only for long-term capital projects.

## Student Tours Draw Hundreds –

Continuing our annual outreach, hundreds of students and teachers in the Beaver Area, SS Peter and Paul, Mt. Gallitzin schools and Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit enjoyed hands-on learning as part of their social studies classes at the museum to experience a taste of frontier life of



*Shirley Pow*

the late 1700s and early 1800s. This program is led by Shirley Pow and her team of many talented docents.

**Thank You!** A big thanks to all who baked and contributed to the Bake Sale on Garrison Day, with net proceeds of nearly \$1,400. Special kudos to Chris Poff King who organized and staffed the booth and to the volunteers who called the membership.



*Museum visitors from the Canfield Historical Society*

## Donations to the Museum: Jan.-March, 2007

**Randolph Carroll** - black and white photos of a house in Vanport, at one time owned by the Greenlee-Walton family

**Nancy Wilson Falcone** - 11 photographs of the Wilson House (corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> & Market Streets)

**Sarah Foster** – materials relating to Fort McIntosh Rededication (1978); Heritage Foundation meetings and events information; Walking Tours; U.S. Bicentennial; 25 newspaper articles and several programs related to the Beaver Area; copy of photograph of the Coke Bottling Works in Beaver; copy of color postcard of the P&LE Depot; *Beaver Argus* 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary historical edition (1924).

**Leila McDonald Fouts** - Scott collection of miscellaneous artifacts

**Jack Goddard** – materials related to the Beaver County Fair - Memories of the old Beaver County Fairs; The Old Spring – The Old Fairground; Do You Remember the Old Beaver County Fair?; Old Beaver County Fair Victim of the Depression; seven color photographs of the Fair site

**Ann Grenther Hill** – photographs of Edwin Stanton Weyand, Wilhelmina Weyand and Col. Jacob Weyand

**Bob and Muriel Hupp** - 12 Beaver County River Regatta mugs from 1977 to 1989

**Jeff and Jean Lloyd** - Bible once belonging to Marie Scott; medical pins from Dr. Ruth Wilson (Bronchoesophagology American College and Medical Society of Pennsylvania, 1907);

membership directory of First Presbyterian Church (1982)

**Jerry and LaRue Lewis** - 62 miscellaneous articles and artifacts related to the Beaver Area

**John McLaughlin** - box containing various pamphlets, booklets, maps, news article, memorabilia re: Beaver County.

**Mark and Elizabeth Z. Miner** - Color Christmas card photo of Wayne Beglin family from the estate of Sophie Balysh Bulva; hand colored print of Fort McIntosh from *Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania* (1896); *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* (2006) re. Fort McIntosh soldier Sgt. Joseph Buell; original *Puck* political cartoon featuring M.S. Quay (late 1880s).

**Robert Mitchell** –photographs of homes on Corporation Street following the March 1993 snow storm; letter from T. E. Hughes to Mrs. D. M. Twiford

**Dorless Phillips** - Bicentennial vanity license plate; *Beaver County Times* article; "Do Not Enter Bridgewater Business District;" *Pittsburgh Press* and *Beaver County Times* articles re President Kennedy's assassination (1963)

**Keith Sevy** - Cat's Meow Keepsake – War Memorial

**Charles R. Snitger, Jr.** - color photograph of Methodist Women Sunday School.



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## Heritage Foundation Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year



**Above:** special cake at a spring birthday party for the Heritage Foundation held at the museum. **Below:** special “history by trolley” tour of Beaver’s historical sites, organized by Gloria Cheshier, Art Cornell and Shirley Pow, with 89 participants.



**Mark Your Calendars!** Circle July 28, 2007 on your calendar and plan to attend the Pot-Luck Picnic at Two- Mile Run Park with the Brighton Township Historical Society. A separate mailing with details will be coming soon!

## Corporate Sponsor Spotlight

### Dentistry for Children & Teens, Inc.

Led by Dr. Robert A. Davis, DMD, this pediatric dental practice is dedicated to the health needs of children, teens and the handicapped. The practice has served the Tri-State area for more than 50 years, with all of its dentists and staff trained to help with the comfort of patients.

### Bruce E. Woodske, Attorney at Law

Mr. Woodske has been named in the last five editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* for workers’ compensation law, and is listed in the 2007 Martindale-Hubbell *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*. He specializes in representing disabled persons for Social Security disability and workers’ compensation claims.

### Valerie Martone, DMD, MSD, Orthodontist

Board certified by the American Board of Orthodontics, Dr. Martone has served the Beaver and East Liverpool areas since 1990. She specializes in orthodontics, TMJ treatment and is an Invisalign Certified provider.

**On the Web: [www.BeaverHeritage.org](http://www.BeaverHeritage.org)**

### Mark Your Calendars - 2007 Special Events:

- “*Holiday Railroad Display*” - Interactive railroad display at the museum from a private collection for the upcoming holidays! Opens this fall.
- *Charter Day Dinner* - Seven Oaks – Oct. 19 - Would you have mementos/memories from the 40 years that might be included in the fall celebration?