



# Foundations

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

[www.beaverheritage.org](http://www.beaverheritage.org)

Spring 2008

## “Beaver’s Greatest Generation” Exhibit Honors Local Service Men and Women of World War II



*World War II ace and Beaver native Dale Karger*



“Beaver’s Greatest Generation,” the men and women whose sacrifices secured the freedom and democracy that we have today, are honored in the current rotating display at the Beaver Area Heritage Museum.

Borrowing its title from Tom Brokaw’s book on World War II, the exhibit inspires appreciation for the generation of people who fought overseas

and worked tirelessly at home to win to create a strong country for their children and grandchildren.

Curated by John McLaughlin, the exhibit uses period music, photographs, educational posters, videos, and a variety of souvenirs to convey the spirit of unity and sacrifice of our local heroes and heroines. Brought up during the Depression, the Greatest Generation struggled through their youth knowing nothing of the

amenities we take for granted today, and grew up on the world’s horrific battlefields.

Among these was Dale Karger, believed to be the youngest pilot to achieve “Ace” status, and one of few pilots to shoot down one of Germany’s secret weapons, the Messerschmitt Me-262 jet fighter. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross in addition to 10 Air Medals – all by the ripe old age of 20! On loan from Karger is a bullet-riddled swastika that hung in the Nuremburg Stadium where Nazi leader Adolf Hitler made major speeches.

Another local hero is Zack Wallover, a fiercely proud Marine who fought in many brutal battles and somehow managed to live to tell the tale. Wallover was friends with Joseph Rosenthal, who took the most famous, most reproduced photo in history, the flag raising on Iwo Jima.



*(continued on page 2)*

## “Beaver’s Greatest Generation” (continued)

These and other oral histories have been recorded for posterity on a video produced by Dave O’Leary, Tom Dowlin and Eric Cooper, to be on continuous loop during the exhibit. A range of emotions and memories are expressed poignantly. The camaraderie and excitement made it the greatest time of their lives for some. For others, the worst, as memories of death and bloodshed rendered them sleepless upon their return.

At home, sacrifices were being made as well. John McLaughlin recalls, “There was a unity in the country because everybody was scared – no money, no cars, tires, food staples, or building materials.” The educational system and medical care suffered for lack of workers. Rationing was a way of life. People grew their own vegetables in Victory Gardens, and raised rabbits and chickens to eat. The dress of a war bride and big band music exemplify a spirit of hopefulness and perseverance that counteracted the bleak, painful, and constantly frightening reality.

Returning home triumphantly from the war, soldiers brought trophies seized from the enemy: a German uniform,

medical kit and enemy weapons. They brought medals and memories, and a determination to create a better life for future generations. Returning soldiers, for the first time, had the opportunity to go to college with the G.I. Bill. The Baby Boom began, as the suburbs flourished.

The museum exhibits committee also includes Paul Semonik and Adam Fitz, with *pro bono* contributions made by Brady Communications of Pittsburgh. For more photographs of artifacts on display, visit our website at [www.beaverheritage.org](http://www.beaverheritage.org).



-- photos and story by Paula Soto

## Bob Mitchell Named New Museum Director



Born and raised just up the street from what is now our museum, Bob Mitchell tried twice to live elsewhere – eight years in Hopewell and eight months in New York – but couldn’t do it. The former Beaver Trust banker has returned home to fill a role befitting a lifelong Beaverite.

Bob began volunteering with in 2004, when he donated his grandfather’s letters and

photographs for the museum collections and was asked by Midge Sefton to help catalogue the items. He enjoyed the task, and continued to help for the next three years.

Starting Feb. 1, 2008, Bob assumed the role of museum director. His primary responsibility is to organize and train docents and volunteers. He enjoys helping out the weekend volunteers, so that he can show the log house while the

docents handle the museum and its store.

Bob says that “the biggest thing in the coming years is the keep the Heritage Foundation alive and active in the community.” That means actively recruiting new volunteers through word of mouth, class reunions and student outreach, such as the educational program and the new Explorer Post 1967. While today’s retirees often have to help care for grandchildren and thus have less time to volunteer than their elder counterparts, he feels certain that people will want to be a part of the foundation’s work once they realize the personal relevance of local history.

--photo and story by Paula Soto

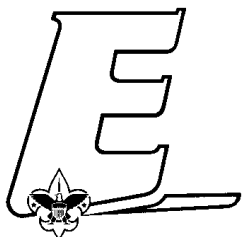


**Coming in July!**

**“Humble Beginnings - Rich Traditions - The Michael Baker Corporation Story”**

**The Museum’s New Rotating Display**

## Scouts Explorer Post 1967 Plans Activities



An exciting, new multi-generational project is underway this spring! Explorer Post 1967 has formed as a joint effort between the Heritage Foundation and the Boy Scouts of America, for young people to explore careers in the history field. Explorers is a coeducational, career exploration program for youth ages

14-20. The Post is named 1967, after the Heritage Foundation’s founding year.

Volunteers Mike and Sue Shovlin, Larry Holt and Chuck Snitger have invited local high school students considering a career in museum curatorship, history, archaeology, or anything of that genre to be trained on “anything and everything that the Heritage Foundation does.” Members

from local high schools will choose and help design their own projects, meeting one Sunday afternoon a month for business meetings. This spring the youth and volunteers from BAHF will travel to Washington County to help unearth a 1,000 year old Native American lodge in a real archaeological dig.

Mike Shovlin anticipates one local activity a month (such as a project with the Heinz History Center) and at least one larger activity per year, such as visiting Washington D.C. or helping to maintain the grounds at the Gettysburg Battlefield, touring and learning about careers with the National Parks Service. Shovlin, who is excited at the prospect of the multi-generational projects, hopes that youth who enjoy history through the Explorer Post 1967 program will become the leaders of the BAHF two generations from now. Cost for membership in the Explorer Post \$7/year (for insurance). Contact Mike Shovlin at 724-728-2070 to join. -- by Paula Soto

# The Late Blanche Shaw – ‘Angel’ of the Heritage Foundation

By Robert Smith



One of the most outstanding characteristics of the people who comprise our community has always been their recognition of the fact that Beaver is a unique place and their readiness to support initiatives that will preserve or enhance this position.

So it was really no surprise when I received a phone call one evening in 1992 from the late Blanche (Edwards) Shaw. Along with the late Jean Hamilton, Blanche had earlier that year volunteered to fund the replacement and upgrading of the stone memorial markers at the site of Fort McIntosh.

It was, she said, her privilege to help in this way and it was something she wanted to do. However, she said, she wanted to do more and asked if I could suggest any other projects for the betterment of the community.

My response was that the Heritage Foundation was in real need of finding a place to establish a museum to tell the story of Beaver's rich history. She replied that she also was interested in this idea, and invited me and my wife Wandalea to join her for lunch in Akron, Ohio, where she was then residing. A few weeks later we met to talk about the idea of creating a museum and how this might be accomplished. Obviously one important aspect of this was how the money could be raised to acquire and furnish a suitable location.

At the end of our visit she said she liked our ideas and said she wanted to help get the ball rolling. Without being asked, she offered us a check for \$20,000, which indeed was how the project was started. The rest, as they say, is history. With this check as seed money, the Heritage Foundation went on to raise \$450,000, leading to the creation of an award-winning local history museum in 1998. We had met our “angel,” and her name was Blanche Shaw.

[Editor's note – Blanche Shaw passed away in Akron at the age of 99 on Jan. 16, 2008.]

## Donations to the Museum: Oct.-Dec. 2007 and Jan.-March 2008

**James Barnes** - 1910 P&LE Railroad plan of proposed station ground and freight house layout at Beaver.

**Joanne M. Bradshaw** – Beaver High School *Shingas* yearbooks (1925, 1979) and football programs (1981-1982).

**John Bukey** - Eight-page typed history of Keystone Bakery.

**Mel & Joan Bundy** – booklet, *Complete History of Orrin Richard 'Dick' Bundy*.

**William H. Bux** - *Herald Magazine* Annual Report from Beaver College 1992-93; history of Beaver College and musical institute.

**Olga Campbell** – artist's print of Tuscarawas Indian.

**Frederick L. Cook** - 185 35 mm slides related to Cook-Anderson Co.

**Wayne Cole** – book, *Ghost Rails III, Electrics of Upper Ohio Valley*; 17 files and collections of material used in writing the *Beaver Valley Railroad Company* book in 2004 and *Ghost Rails III Electrics* in 2007.

**Marcia Bennett Cornell** - 14 Newspapers – *Beaver Daily Times* (1936, 1945); *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* (1935, 1936, 1944, 1945); *Aliquippa Gazette* (1940); *New York Herald Tribune* (1936); *New York Times* (1937); *Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph* (1933, 1936, 1937, 1944).

**Curt Crocker** - iron artifact found at Fort McIntosh site.

**Adam Fitz** - certificate of justice of the peace D. Singleton (1876); Beaver College Catalogs (1870, 1880, 1893, 1894, 1901, 1910, 1911); Beaver College Class Play Program (1912); two tax receipts of Sam Beatty Wilson (1864 and 1866); *Pittsburgh Legal Journal* receipts (1869, 1876, 1877); miscellaneous receipts from 1868 to 1879; ink blotter ad from Dowdell Florist; advertising card from I. G. Fry for horse-shoeing; button from Rowse's Pharmacy; 10 program booklets of the Beaver Garden Club (1932-1949).

**James A. Foster** - label from a suit from Balint's Menswear; newspaper article re. retirement of Beaver Police Chief Charles Krepps (1983); card listing of Beaver Borough Officials (1976-1977); political brochure of County Commissioners election.

**Sarah Foster** - *Valley Tribune* newspaper article about Garrison Sale (1987).

**Pauline Gibson** - script and program of fashion show by United Methodist Women of the Beaver United Methodist Church.

**Ray & Jean Grosskopf** – antique ice tongs.

**William & Sue Hirt** – bottle from J. H. Martsolf Central Drug Store.

**Bob Hromika** - axe head found near Beaver Area Memorial Library.

**Philip Icenhour** - photo of “Boys From District No. 2” by J.A.J. Cole (1917).

**Dr. Robert C. Jones** - color postcard of Beaver High School & Auditorium.

**Martha J. Kotys** – four black & white photos of 1932 courthouse fire.

**Jerry & LaRue Lewis** – 1930 Grove City College *Ouija* yearbook with senior photo of Mayor Robert Linn.

**Jean Lloyd** - eight postcards of Beaver circa early 1900s.

**Robert B. McClure** – photo of 1923 Beaver High School football squad.

**Edwards McLaughlin** – bottles, boxes and products from the old Beaver Pharmacy at 358 Third Street.

**John R. McLaughlin Jr.** - sepia photos of Sutton Gas; photo of Crawford Kennedy House; framed drawing of Fort McIntosh by Richard Amutis from the old Beaver Lunch; old newspapers; thick slice of 1716 oaken wood for use on museum timeline.

**Mark & Liz Miner** – 1894 *Harper's Weekly* with cover cartoon featuring M.S. Quay; *Judge* magazine cartoon of Quay with President McKinley.

**Beverly J. O'Leary** - framed photo of Scott House on Tuscarawas Road.

**Margaret Pauley** - copy of proclamation and newspaper article re: dedication of Fort McIntosh Historical Marker (1969); newspaper article/photo re: Heritage Foundation walking tour (1970).

**Richard J. Pence** – record albums of Beaver Curtiss Wright Chorus (1942).

**Shirley Pow** - color panoramic photos from Beaver Borough Bicentennial Parade (2002).

**Ruth Ann Radish** – copy of Tom Thumb wedding program and J. T. Anderson Christmas greetings photo.

**Carolyn B. Reidel** - Keystone Bakery cooking pamphlet.

**Mildred Sefton** - *Beaver County Times* newspapers (2007).

**Doris Seidl** – color photos of George W. Bush whistle-stop visit in Beaver (2000).

**Michael Shovlin** - *Beaver Valley Towns in the World War* book.

**Charles R. Snitger, Jr.** - Brighton Township Historical Society newsletter re. Scott family (2002); *National Geographic Traveler* magazine (2007).

**Rev. William & Becky Teague** – old framed photos; painting by C.P. Norris; silver plated tea set of 7 pieces; lamp parts; wooden rod holders; china vase – broken; leather suitcase handle with straps; miscellaneous papers featuring the name Corbin.”

**Jack Waddell** - newspaper obituary of James Galey (1943); copy of a bill from J. T. Anderson (1906).



**Beaver Area Heritage Foundation**  
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## Rotary Sign Helps Tell Museum ‘Story’



*22,000 vehicles a day pass the museum’s banner on the Rotary sign board on select dates during the year*

## 2008 Heritage Foundation Schedule

**Membership Meetings** - 7:30 p.m. - Trinity Episcopal Church:  
 Nov. 18 – “The Story of Legionville”  
**Charter Day Dinner** – Seven Oaks Country Club – Oct. 25  
**Garrison Day** – June 14 – Beaver’s central parks  
**Fourth of July** – Walking tour of Third Street business district (July 4); River City Brass Band concert (July 6)  
**Board Meetings** – 7 p.m., Borough Building, Aug. 19, Oct. 21.

## Corporate Member Spotlight

### *C3Controls*

Headquartered in Vanport, c3controls is a leading manufacturer of a broad range of standard industrial control products. Now in the second generation and flourishing as never before, c3controls supplies high quality products to companies across the world while at the same time staying true to its small town roots and values.

### *Eaton Electrical*

Eaton Corporation is a diversified industrial manufacturer serving the Truck, Automotive, Fluid Power and Electrical industries. Eaton Electrical’s Beaver plant manufactures electrical circuit breakers that provide for safe and efficient distribution, protection and control of electrical power. Other plants worldwide make circuit breakers, power fuses, vehicle control switches and vacuum interrupters.

### *Bovard Anderson Real Estate*

Since 1904, Bovard-Anderson has been recognized as a real estate leader in Beaver County, with more than a century of market knowledge. As the county’s oldest real estate “boutique,” now in its fourth generation of family ownership under Ed and Jackie McLaughlin, the firm provides sales, internet marketing, property management, appraisal, consulting and tenant finding services.