



# Foundations

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

Summer 2006

## Lush Gardens Impress Botanic Garden Tour Group

*Museum Grounds a Stop on Prestigious 'Open Gardens Day' in Western Pennsylvania*



*Visitors admire the beautiful pink and red shrub roses*

On Sunday, June 11, garden lovers from all over Western Pennsylvania were transported back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as the 2006 Open Gardens Day Tour came to our museum and log house grounds. The annual tour is sponsored by the Botanic Garden of Western Pennsylvania — a division of the Horticultural Society of Western Pennsylvania (HSWP).

The Botanic Garden is a project that showcases leading gardens throughout the region. This is the first year that our museum has been included on the tour.

Approximately 250 people took part in the Open Gardens Day Tour, which featured 25 gardens in Beaver, New Brighton, Pittsburgh's North Side and Mount Washington.



*Plantings of lavender, lamb's ear, chamomile and mugwort attract the eye of visitors*

Our log house is believed to be one of the first six houses built in Beaver in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The surrounding garden was re-created to resemble a typical family garden of the time, which would have been a vital part of family life, both for healing and for nourishing.

The grounds also feature a grove of young Pennsylvania Smokehouse apple trees, as well as a Beaver County native wildflower garden, which includes Culver's Root, Blue False Indigo and Wild Senna.



*(continued on page 2)*

## 'Salute to Sports Heroes' Exhibit Opens at Museum



The museum has opened its second exhibit of the year – a salute to sports heroes of Beaver. It features many local athletes, coaches and teams that have produced championships from high school athletics to the college ranks to professional sports as well as the Olympics. Among the highlights are:

**'Winningest' Coaches Joe Hamilton and Pat Tarquinio -**  
Two of the most successful coaches in Pennsylvania high school football

history are Pat Tarquinio and Joe Hamilton. Pat garnered 241 wins at Beaver after earning All-America honors at Juniata College and coaching at Ellwood City. Joe was a 1959 graduate of Beaver who starred at Geneva College and has coached at several local schools, including Blackhawk.

*(continued on page 2)*

# New Exhibit Opens Saluting Beaver Sports Heroes

(continued from page 1)

**John Skorupan** - A graduate of Beaver High School Class of 1969, he was a major force as a defensive end and linebacker at Penn State University and later with the Buffalo Bills and New York Giants. John has graciously loaned us many articles, game footballs and equipment for this exhibit.

**Frank Carver and Michael Casp** - We are honoring Frank Carver, a former Athletic Director at the University of Pittsburgh, and Mike "Sluggo" Casp, star Beaver and West Point Academy football player, who lost his life in action in Vietnam, and whose photo and Bronze Star are displayed.



Butler's running shoes / medals

**Bill Butler** - In 1927, this Beaver High graduate was the fastest 440-yard college sprinter in America. We are fortunate to have a display of photos of Bill and members of the 1922-23 Beaver High track teams, many of trophies and medals, and a pair of his track shoes. A graduate of

Geneva College, he established records in several distances.

**High School Track and Field Stars** - Beaver High School has two recent Pennsylvania state track and field champions: Jason Barr - 300 Intermediate Hurdles (1998); and Sean Fabanich - Discus (2000). Their award plaques are included in the exhibit.

**Knee High Baseball Champions** - In 1952, Beaver boasted a state champion baseball team which captured the American Legion Knee-High title. On display are team photos, a team jacket and the Outstanding Player Award (John Barley). Paul Jones, one of the most notable of Beaver's intramural coaches and sports boosters, coached the team.



Judith Hult Deibel and her Olympics photographs

**Olympian Judith Hult Deibel** - Our exhibit includes memorabilia, photographs and newspaper clippings of Judith Hult Deibel, a 1954 Beaver High graduate and 1956 Olympian. One of the area's most accomplished gymnasts, she was a member of the Rochester Turners and competed at the AAU college level after graduation. In 1955, she won the national AAU All-Around Title and was a shoo-in for the 1956 U.S. Olympic Ladies' Gymnastic Team, competing for our nation in Melbourne, Australia.

**Beaver Baseball** - The 1983 Beaver High School baseball team was the first in the area to compete for the state championship, finishing as runner-up. Ed Snitger, a star baseball, basketball and football player in his own right, coached the team.



Joe Lonnett's memorabilia of "We Are Fam-a-lee"

**Major League Baseball** - The Beaver Area boasts several Major League players and coaches - Hugh Mulcahy, who won 45 games for the Phillies and Pirates; Joe Lonnett, who played for the Phillies and was a coach on the Pirates' 1979 "We Are Fam-a-Lee" World Series champions; John Burkett, who won 166 games for five teams from 1987 to 2003; and Doug Piatt, who pitched for the Expos. Our exhibit features photos, bubblegum cards, uniforms and equipment.



Burkett's Red Sox jersey, with a memorial "9" patch honoring Ted Williams

**Ice Hockey** - Starting in 1991, Beaver came into its own as a scholastic ice hockey powerhouse. That year, the Bobcats won the state P.I.A.A. Class AA Championship. Ten years later, they repeated the feat. No other Beaver County high school has won this title. On loan from Beaver Area High School, coaches and alumni, our exhibit features trophies and color team photos, memorabilia and equipment.

**Beaver Tennis** - Brothers Tim and Scott Brooke captured the 1970 PIAA tennis doubles championship, playing for Beaver High School.

--by Charles R. Snitger Jr.

## Museum Hosts 'Gardens' Tour

(continued)

Trustee Shirley Pow arranged for docents in period clothing to educate and entertain visitors.

The garden was chosen for the tour after event coordinator Ellen Ahmad heard about it from volunteer Nancy Lonnett-Roman, the garden's designer. "We were absolutely charmed by the history of [the garden]," Ellen said, "and we knew we wanted it on the tour. The volunteers dressed in period costumes only added to the wonderful experience."

Trustee Jean Lloyd oversees the planting and care of vegetables in the garden, which include lettuce, onions, turnips, corn, potatoes, Swiss chard and beets - all typical of the period. She spent tireless hours in the garden to get it looking beautiful for the garden tour.

The museum's old luggage wagon was decorated with various antiques and items to add to the charm.

--by Valentine J. Brkich



## Sights of a Busy Spring and Summer of 2006



Above, left to right: Heritage Foundation president Mark Miner, Museum chairman Ed McLaughlin and Civil War reenactors lead the Memorial Day commemoration at Beaver Cemetery; volunteer Bea Cooper greets visitors to our book sale tent on Garrison Day; and the River City Brass Band performs patriotic music at its evening concert in the central park gazebo to celebrate Independence Day.



## Donations to the Museum: April-June, 2006

**Robert Batto:** Cine' Kodak Model "K" Camera in case; harness maker's vise circa 1900

**Marg Carroll:** 5 photos re: football banquet centerpieces; plastic litter bag from Beaver Trust Co.; booklet on *Beaver Penna. Sesquicentennial 1800-1950*; program from *Hosanna* presented in 2005; 3 color photos Memorial Day parade featuring Clark Carroll and Jim Anderson; 5 passes issued by Louis E. Graham, including member's pass to House of Representatives (1951); admission card to U.S. Senate Chamber; admission card to U.S. Supreme Court; admission card to the FBI Building; and admission card to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving

**Charles P. Copeland Jr.:** Album of portrait photos presumed to be of Beaver residents

**Nancy Equels:** sepia photo of class of 1908, Beaver Commercial College

**James A. Foster:** copy of panoramic photo of Beaver, Rochester, & Monaca; circa 1905; Beaver County Times article re. courthouse bomb blast (1972).

**Adam Fitz:** letter on Beaver College letterhead signed by president R. T. Taylor; letter signed by Judge Daniel Agnew; envelope addressed to Butler County commissioners.

**Field Gathered:** Many items from the home of Milan Blistan.

**Found in Collection:** *The ABC's of our Town* booklet (2002); *Beaver Area Memorial Library Coloring Book* booklet; Beaver Valley Musicians Hall of Fame newspaper tabloid (2004); *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* "Focus" magazine, "Beaver Still the Same" (2005); bookmark from the Beaver Area Memorial Library (If you recognize any items, please contact the Museum.)

**Robert Mitchell:** Various items related to Beaver and photo negatives

**Shirley Pow:** History By Trolley booklet (2006).

**Rotary Club of Beaver:** Archival materials from 1947 through 1959, including newsletters, photographs, newspaper clippings and membership lists.

**Michael T. Shovlin:** Book entitled *An Historical Account of the Expedition Against The Ohio Indians in the Year 1764, Under the Command of Henry Bouquet, Esq.*

**Charles R. Snitger, Jr.:** Sears four-drawer, letter size file cabinet; *Shingas* yearbook (1970)

**Patricia Stewart:** Official seal of the Brighton Twp. Electric Co. (1913)

**Charles Townsend:** *The History of Land in Pennsylvania & Beaver County* booklet (2006); book entitled

*Sesquicentennial 1856-2006, Industry, PA.*

**Frank Thomasec:** photocopy of the *Fort McIntosh Its Times* booklet by Judge Daniel Agnew

**Vanport Township Commissioners:** Memorabilia from Vanport's Bicentennial (2004)

**Mercedes Wilton:** framed/matted map of "Beaver PA 1900;" framed/matted artwork containing prints of "Beaver Station," "Beaver High School" and "Water Fountain" by R. Smith; and "Beaver County Courthouse," "Fort McIntosh Club" and "Power Alley, Shippingport, PA" by J. Regney.

*Photography in this issue:  
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## Corporate Sponsor Spotlight

### **Noll Funeral Home**

Founded by Mark Eli and Melanie Noll in 1998, the Noll Funeral Home of Beaver is committed to providing a high level of personalized service and comfort to families during what can be the most difficult time in their lives.

### **Homer Nine & Sons, Inc.**

A customer focused heating and air-conditioning company that was founded in 1943. Located in Bridgewater, the company employs highly trained people who specialize in designing, engineering, and installing complete comfort systems for owners of existing homes and buildings.

### **Spanos Group of Merrill Lynch**

Led by Samuel Spanos, this team of accomplished financial advisors has a combined 70 years' experience in the financial services industry. Its goal is to help clients create and grow wealth, protect and preserve wealth, and allocate the distribution of wealth in the most tax-advantaged way.

## News Notes

**Museum Associates Drive** – The Museum Associates drive is nearing \$9,000, representing the second highest total in our history. We are deeply grateful to all of our donors for their generosity.

**Outreach Programs Draw Hundreds** - Our daylong outreach programs with local schools have drawn 650 elementary students to our museum and log house, from Beaver Area, Mt. Gallitzin and Saints Peter and Paul Schools, led by Shirley Pow.

### **Mark Your Calendars:**

- *Aug. 25* – Street Dance in Shaw Park after Beaver High School's football scrimmage, featuring live bands, hot dogs and popcorn, with proceeds to benefit the museum.
- *Sept. 9* – Yard sale at the museum, to start at 8 a.m. If you have questions, call Sally Foster (724- 775-6729).
- *Oct. 28* - Charter Day dinner - Seven Oaks, with guest speakers and athletes honored in our museum sports exhibit.
- *Nov. 16* - Mildred Sefton will present a show and tell of museum artifacts at our membership meeting.

## Corporate Supporters - 2006

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## *Fort McIntosh Re-dedication - Sept. 19*



The Heritage Foundation has taken active steps this year to enhance the Fort McIntosh site and implement new long-range planning procedures. This has included refurbishment of our cannon; new information panels at our kiosk; and the donation by Daniel C. Baker Associates engineering firm of high quality aerial photography and detailed maps of the fort site and its proximity to the museum and downtown business district.

We will be holding a public rededication at the fort on Tues., Sept. 19, at 6 p.m. The purpose is to not only celebrate this rich heritage but also make a statement to the community that we are continuing to preserve the fort site and find innovative ways to preserve its good condition for their children and future generations.