



# Foundations

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

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

Summer 2008

## “Humble Beginnings – Rich Traditions”

*New Display Celebrates Compelling Story of Beaver Entrepreneur Michael Baker, Jr.*



*The Beaver Area Heritage Museum's summer display honors Beaver entrepreneur Michael Baker, Jr., and the worldwide engineering firm he founded.*

In 1940, at age 28, Michael Baker, Jr., opened his own surveying and engineering business in the Penn-Beaver Hotel in Rochester, PA. The business grew from one \$25 lot survey to an eight-man operation grossing \$15,000 in its first year.

Always a visionary, he traveled the globe early in his career in search of his "favorite project – the next project." Through the Far East, Middle East, Europe and Latin America, he logged millions of travel miles.

**Engineering Design** - In 1951, the firm was named consulting engineer and construction administrator for Saudi Arabia. This entailed design of harbor facilities, customs buildings, major highway systems, airports, water supply and electrical systems, a private hospital for the royal family, a \$30 million air base and additions to the royal palaces.



Considered to be one of the great engineering and construction feats in history, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline was a crowning achievement for Baker during the late 1960s and into 1977, when it became operational. Upon completion, the \$7.7 billion project was the largest privately funded venture in history. The 48-

inch oil pipeline was designed to bring two million barrels of crude from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez.

The Baker-designed New River Gorge Bridge, in Fayetteville, WV, is an engineering marvel stretching 3,030 feet from one end to the other. With a main arch span of 1,700 feet, it is the longest single arch steel bridge in the world.



*West Virginia's New River Gorge Bridge*

**Public Works/Government Projects** - Baker's work for the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program keeps our borders safe. What started as a data collection and mapping task for 400 border air, land, and sea points-of-entry has evolved into Baker as an integral, overall program manager. Baker's services on behalf of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools began in 1988. Baker has helped detect and manage asbestos abatement at 1,000 facilities worldwide. Today, Baker serves the DoD Education Activity with critical planning, design, environmental and program management services.

*(continued on page 2)*

## *Michael Baker, Jr. Exhibit Opens at Museum (continued)*



*One of Baker's greatest projects – the Trans-Alaska Pipeline*

The American Consulting Engineers Council honored Baker with its 1992 Grand Conceptor Award for the design of Vine Street Expressway in Philadelphia. This \$225 million, seven-year effort provided much needed relief for one of Pennsylvania's most congested highway corridors.

Baker was one of the first engineering companies to utilize computer technology for engineering purposes. Its first computer had less computing power than most handheld calculators of the 1980s.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has been a client for more than 30 years. In 2004, Baker embarked on its most challenging FEMA project yet -- the \$750 million modernization of the entire flood mapping system as FEMA's National Service Provider.

Visit Baker's website at [www.mbakercorp.com](http://www.mbakercorp.com).



### *Baker Hosts Reception to Open Exhibit*

Michael Baker Corporation hosted an upscale reception for clients and employees at our log house on June 30 to launch the new "Humble Traditions" exhibit. Seen here are longtime Baker chairman Richard Shaw (left) and new Baker CEO Bradley Mallory, former Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (PennDOT).



*Left: Baker's use of technology for the Dept. of Homeland Security (left) US-VISIT program helps keep our borders safe. Right: Baker assists FEMA with a \$750 million modernization of its entire flood mapping system.*

## *Fourth of July Walking Tour Highlights Third Street Building Stories*



The Heritage Foundation held its first Fourth of July walking tour of

Third Street since 1977. More than 100 people strolled as Bob Smith, Art Cornell and Dave O'Leary pointed out details and stories that make ours' a thriving community.

Walkers were treated to a recounting of each notable building's history, as well the latest plans for Third Street's future. Folks are looking forward to visiting the new Starbucks

and Inspirocity, a high-end art and performance gallery, set to move into the old 5 & 10 building. Residents are also thrilled that, thanks to the Third Street Renaissance Partners and Cottrill, Arbutina Professional Services, the long-time eyesore formerly known as the Anderson building will soon be an attractive three-story office building.

--story and photo by Paula Soto



# Elementary School Outreach Touches Hundreds of Students

Local school children are buzzing about the Heritage Museum's educational program that has enriched the social studies curriculum of more than 1,500 students since its inception in 2003.

Partnering with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit and local public and private schools to provide hands-on learning experiences, this program is no ordinary field trip. It was designed and is run primarily by former educators: Shirley Pow (Director of Gifted Education for Beaver Area); Art Cornell (Blackhawk School District Principal); and at least 10 others are retired teachers. Their collective experience ensures that the program satisfies National Standards for fifth, third and first grader curriculums. Other docents bring their backgrounds local business, and a love of children, to make Beaver's history come alive to our youngest generation.



Dutch Ridge fifth grade teacher Glenna Matthews says that the program augments what her class is learning about the colonial times. She points out that the history they are learning is more than just a story in a book – it is right here in our town. She says students are eager to return for more fun, interactive learning experiences. Students also share *History by Trolley* – the coloring/

activity book created by fifth graders – with first grade partners in the Book Buddy (reading mentorship) program.

College Square first grade teacher Mandi Mammone uses *History by Trolley* to highlight our hometown through pictures, activities and text, so the students can read and discuss the material. This primes children for their visit to the museum. Says Mammone, "Going to the museum is a great trip for the kids, and they truly enjoy it! They love getting to learn about what it was like to live back then."

The hands-on activities are engaging, each tailored to fit first, third or fifth grade learning levels and curriculum. At the museum, children go on scavenger hunts, learn about

Beaver's Native American origins and make quilt patterns. In the log house, they churn butter, help make stew, toast or apple sauté at the hearth, plant herbs, measure trees, and learn how water was carried. They play period games like quoits and blind man's bluff, write period sayings with quill pens, learn about animal pelts and dress in period costume. Fifth graders go on a trolley tour narrated by Art Cornell, stopping for hands-on activities led by retired teacher Dolores Dowlin. Children come away with an enthusiasm they are eager to share with their families.



*Writing with quill pens*

Complementing the program, Beaver's Summer Academy offers classes in colonial crafts, cooking, games and music. Riley Ivoll, a sophomore in the Monaca School District, thought the colonial cooking class "sounded fun" five summers ago. Her experience in the Academy led her to become a Junior Docent at the museum, greeting visitors and answering questions. She and her friend Brenton Atcheson are future leaders in our community.

Retired teacher Helen Janicki says: "I like working with the kids and giving back to the community. In getting kids interested in history at a young age, we're planting a seed for their future interest." She says being a docent is "not at all laborious; we do it because we want to." The volunteer roster has risen from 25 to 30 in the past year.

Grants and resources have been provided by the Beaver Area Educational Foundation, Beaver County Educational Trust, College Square PTA, Beaver Rotary Club, the Morgan and Shaw family, student fees, and Fred Petro and the Greek Catholic Union (publisher of the coloring books).

-- story and photographs by Paula Soto

## Donations to the Museum: April-June, 2008

**Beaver Area Heritage Foundation** – DVD video about Richmond, TX Mayor Moore & the late Beaver Mayor Linn; copy of Certificate of Appreciation given to Col. Joseph F. Sudol; script of 2008 walking tour; copies of museum highlight CD (2006)

**Tony Cercal** for VFW Post 1821 - *All American Paraglide* newspaper; Berlin Edition 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division (1945-1946)

**Charles P. Copeland** for Beaver Area School District - plaques items found in the vault at College Square Elementary School

**Adam Fitz** – original Lachlan McIntosh letter from Ft. McIntosh dated Oct. 30, 1778; postcard bearing the raised seal of attorney Henry Hice

**Adam Fitz & Richard Pontillo** - 1815 bank note bearing signature of Sam Lawrence & J. Allison, Jr. of the Bank of Beaver

**James & Sarah Foster** - 1949 map of Beaver; story on Aliquippa P&LE RR; dress forms for female and male clothing

**Philip & Carol Miller (Gillespie?)** - 13 pages of data Re: *The Daniel Miller Family – Three Generations in the Beaver Area*

**Katherine Walton Heimann** - *Silver Linings* booklet given to bereaved by J. T. Anderson Funeral Home (1948); *Singalong with Dollar Savings & Loan* booklet (1966); *Singalong with Dollar Savings & Loan's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* booklet (1966)

**Senator John Heinz History Center** – items from the George Westinghouse Museum to be used for exhibits and displays

**Bob & Muriel Hupp** - four USA Bicentennial novelty pins/medallions

**John R. McLaughlin** – Beaver Area tax receipts from Mrs. Robert Hoffman

**Mark & Elizabeth Z. Miner** - Paramount Pictures photo from *Wonder Boys* film; original press photo of Matthew Quay statue in Harrisburg; copies of *The Pittsburgh Christian Advocate* re. Beaver College; Allegheny County Bar Association *Lawyer's Journal* (2008); ink blotter from Cyrus Ewing election campaign (1915); two copies of *Fortune Magazine* (1957) featuring "Mike Baker of the Turnpikes"

**Dolores Morrison** - two boxes of archival materials compiled by her late husband John (former BAHF President)

**Katherine Nestor** - Beaver Co. map (1984)

**Dr. Betty Sue Schaughency** - Beaver High School commencement invitation, program and announcements (1893, 1896, 1897 &

1899); wedding invitation and envelope sent to David Cooper (1906); newspaper clippings re: Dr. Harrison H. Richardson; paper note re: Class of 1937

**Robert A. Smith** - 12 black and white photographs of Graham & Barclay; Graham & Nixon; Rochester-Bridgewater Bridge dedication (1933); Beaver tree-trimming (1924); Bridgewater flood (1943); downtown Beaver (1926); Beaver Tourist Club booklet with original envelope

**William C. Snyder** - U. S. Army patches

**Richard G. Temple** - *200-Year Picture History of Beaver County* Courthouse book



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### News Briefs



*Bob O'Dell, Midge Sefton and John McLaughlin at our book table at the Bridgewater BookFest in June*



**Mark Your Calendars - Nov. 15, 2008** – Our annual Charter Day Dinner will be held at Seven Oaks Country Club to honor Beaver's greatest generation – our World War II heroes. A video, directed by David O'Leary and produced by Tom Dowlin, will debut and show highlights of oral history interviews with our local veterans. Previews of the video may be seen on YouTube.com.

### Corporate Member Spotlight

#### **Bruce E. Woodske, Attorney at Law**

Mr. Woodske has been named in the last six 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.

#### **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.

#### **Valerie Martone, DMD, MSD, Orthodontist**

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