

Beaver County Times

Monday, March 14, 2011

Local history has a home in Beaver

I've devoted many columns to the history of Beaver County and its communities, and the agencies that have literature and artifacts on file for those interested in the subject.

I especially envy one group, the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation, because it has had success in keeping alive the history of its town.

I've been involved in different organizations that have attempted to create historical museums, one devoted to the steel industry and one for the town of Aliquippa. The steel industry museum committee, headed by Don Inman, has been active for many years, but a number of problems have kept the project from coming to fruition.

The Aliquippa dream never really got off the ground because of lack of funds, supporters and, sadly, no great community interest.

The Beaver group, on the

other hand, has a permanent home near the former Beaver train station and offers programs throughout the year as well as exhibits and documents on different subjects related to the town.

The most recent programs included replacing the sign at the site of Fort McIntosh, the old frontier outpost built in 1778 during the Revolutionary War, at the corner of River Road and Market Street in Beaver.

Other recent projects included a 100th anniversary celebration of the completion of the former Pittsburgh & Lake Erie (now CSX) Railroad Bridge over the Ohio River, and an exhibit that showcased Beaver's rich architectural styles over the last two centuries.

The group recently secured a donation from the Beaver County Commissioners of 245 bound copies of the Beaver County Times covering a 50-year era from 1935 to 1985. The newspapers were found in the old county jail annex by Ward Bill Schouppe.

The museum, which is open from April to December, will have on display some of those volumes each weekend. Mark Miner is the chairman of the

museum board of trustees who also publish a periodic newsletter detailing exhibits and activities.

I've received many items of interest and humor that should help ease some of our problems with the weather and illness.

One, from Bernie Juth, begins with our problems with the price of gasoline in relationship to other items. For instance: Lipton Ice tea, 16 ounces, costs \$1.19, or \$9.52 per gallon; Gatorade, 20 ounces, \$1.59, or \$10.17 per gallon; Scope mouthwash, 1.5 ounces, 99 cents, or \$84.48 per gallon; and Evian water, 9 ounces, \$1.49, or \$21.19 per gallon.

The writer notes that Evian spelled backward is Naive, which most of us are. The letter closes with this thought: "So the next time you're at the gasoline pump, be glad your car doesn't run on iced tea, Gatorade, Scope or (bottled) water."

Joe D'Allesandris in Florida sent along some grandparent jokes.

● Grandson asks grandpa, "Do you know that you and God are alike?"

"How are we alike?" asks grandpa. "You're both old,"

grandson says.

● When asked where his grandma lives, the grandson said at the airport, "When we want her, we just go get her. And when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

Marvin Morris sent some nursery rhymes:

● "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men, had scrambled eggs for breakfast again."

● "There was a little girl who had a little curl, right in the middle of her forehead. When she was good, she was very, very good, but when she was bad, she got a fur coat, jewels, a condo and a sports car."

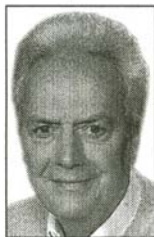
Let me close with some thoughts from the late comedian Rodney Dangerfield:

● "My wife is a such a bad cook, the dog begs for Alka-Seltzer."

● "She's such a bad cook, in my house, we pray after the meal."

● "A girl phoned me and said, 'Come over, there's nobody home.' I went over. Nobody was home!"

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